N
1327

FO 816/117

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SECRET

Legation

BRITISH ~~RESIDENT'S OFFICE~~

AMMAN

TRANS-JORDAN.

014	48

(4th Jacket)

~~Vol III~~ (Vol III) FO 816/117

SECRET

N 1328

SUBJECT: Partition of Palestine.

S.

GPP. 9781—1000—11-2-40

CONNECTED FILES

UMBER AND YEAR	SUBJECT
S/1027/48	Future Status of JERUSALEM.

SECRET

S	1014	48

(4th Jacket)

Partition of Palestine.

From: High Commissioner for Palestine.

To: Secretary of State.

Date. 8th March, 1948.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 5/1814/48

No. 555. TOP SECRET.

Repeated to Washington No. 151. (Please pass to UKDEL No. 584)

MEMIN. (Please pass to Ambassador, Cairo and C-in-C)

TOP SECRET SAVING.
Baghdad.
Beirut,
Damascus.
Jeddah.
Amman.
Governor, Malta (for C-in-C MED.)

My telegram No. 491: Weekly intelligence appreciation.

Relations between the Government and the leaders of the Yishuv have continued to deteriorate and are now as bad as at any time since the beginning of the Mandate, August, 1946 not excepted. The Jewish press has reacted in characteristic fashion to the official communiqué issued on 1st March, repeating the threadbare theme that the Jewish community had done all in its power to prevent dissident terrorism and was not responsible for the deeds of a repudiated minority; relating the statement that the Jewish Agency had been breaking the laws of Palestine only to unauthorized immigration (which of course was asserted to be not illegal); and attempting to establish that the purport of the statement was to justify outlawing the Jewish community and refusing it, when attacked by Arabs, the protection of Government forces. The Ben Yehuda Street affair continues to provide a pretext for unmeasured vilification of the security forces, while the administration is daily accused of assisting Arab violence directly (e.g. in issuing arms to Arab towns and villages) and indirectly (by disarming Jewish defenders). Should the Security Council fail to provide an international force the blame will be mainly laid on His Majesty's Government, though the United States is attracting criticism as a result of Senator Austin's distinction between maintaining the peace and enforcing partition. While Jewish officials still profess confidence that a Jewish state will emerge in the boundaries assigned by U.N.; if not with international help, then by the Jews unaided efforts, there has been a marked collapse of morale in middle class circles, although the urban and rural proletariat is said to be resolute as ever. From several sources come reports that the Agency is planning to abandon outlying settlements (notably in the HULEH and the NEGEV) after 15th May in order to shorten the defensive line.

2 As the Yishuv becomes increasingly disillusioned about the intentions of the Truman administration, more and more hopes are pinned on the U.S.S.R., and what may be termed the Sneh tendency is gaining momentum. The extent to which Jewish papers of the Right have lately refrained from criticism of Soviet action is noticeable; and the Czechoslovak crisis has been reported either without comment or with a pro-communist's slant.

3 The Vaad Leumi announced on 29th February that the Provisional Council of the Jewish State would be composed of the Palestinian members of the Jewish Agency and the Executive of the Vaad Leumi who in turn would co-opt members of Jewish bodies not represented. Under the U.N. resolution it is of course for the Commission to constitute Provisional Councils after consultation with democratic bodies, and if the Commission is unable to perform this duty by 1st April the matter is to be referred to the Security Council for action. The significance of the Vaad Leumi declaration is therefore not clear; one source suggests that this step is intended to anticipate the/

the resignation of the Palestine Commission, in which event the Yishuv would proclaim the establishment of a sovereign Jewish State confident that the Security Council would approve or acquiesce.

4 The train outrage at Rehovoth has brought home to the Agency some of the dangers of its policy of inciting the Jewish community against Government and the security forces. Attributing the deaths of the nine Haganah men at Miqve Israel to a calculated reprisal, a Jewish spokesman called attention to the folly of involving the Yishuv in a second front with the British forces. In conformity with this attitude the Haganah, it is reported, is maintaining its pressure on the dissidents to refrain from attacks on British personnel, and apparently some preventive action on these lines is being taken. On the other hand the Stern Group appears to have acted with connivance of the Haganah in the Haifa bombing, while reports speak of cordial relations between the rank and file of the Haganah and the N.M.O. who, it is said, are indignant at the pensonal jealousies of their leaders which alone prevent close collaboration. It is not however easy to square this with events in Tel Aviv, where there have been clashes, in one of which, according to Hamashkif in a polemic against the Haganah leaders hand grenades were used by the Haganah to disperse peaceful citizens listening to an N.M.O. broadcast, with 100 resultant casualties. The truth is probably that no general policy is followed by local units of the Haganah, which adjust their relations to the dissidents in accordance with the exigencies of the Arab struggle and in the light of popular sentiment towards the Government as it veers with the wind of events.

5 In Samaria, and to a lesser extent in Galilee and in Jerusalem and Jaffa towns, a form of Arab military government is steadily emerging side by side with the mandatory administration. This development has largely checked the movement towards chaos which at one time seemed possible. The local Arab civil authorities, both statutory and self-appointed (e.g. national committees), continue to function, but play the diminished role inevitably assigned to civil bodies under a military regime. This process has not in general been motivated or accompanied by hostility to the mandatory rule or by a desire to deny or curtail its authority; it has come about partly in order to enable the Arabs to defend themselves against Jewish attacks in circumstances in which this Government cannot ensure their safety; partly in consequence of the recognition of the necessity to provide a working authority to replace the British administration on its departure, and partly in order to mobilize Arab resources for the severe struggle regarded as inevitable after 15th May. Perhaps unfortunately, this process is purely local, and there is so far no sign of the emergence of a country-wide Arab authority; in districts other than those mentioned above the process has been less marked, and it is in these that there have been constant attacks on troops in order to obtain arms, and general insecurity of life and property. A hopeful sign is the formation of the Committee of the Arab League to take over the direction of civil and military control in Palestine; although the Mufti is on this body he is apparently not to play a predominant role.

6 Publicity has been given in the local press to a statement purporting to be issued by the following Christian bodies urging that the partition decision be abrogated in the interests of peace: The Greek Orthodox, Latin, Armenian, Melkite, Coptic, Armenian Catholic and Syrian Catholic Patriarchates; the Custodian of the Terra Santa; the Syrian Orthodox Community; the Arab Evangelical Episcopal Community; and the Arab Lutheran Community. Present information is that the persons attending the meeting following which the statement was issued were not fully empowered by the authorities/.

authorities of the bodies whose views they pruported to represent. The significance which should be attached to the statement is therefore not as yet clear. It seems to have been entirely an Arab move.

7 Owing to falls in revenue due to the disturbances the Jerusalem municipality is in financial straits, and the chairman has had to warn ratepayers that unless collections improve it may be necessary to suspend municipal services.

8 The Jewish enquiry into the Ben Yehuda street incident has proceeded during the week in circumstances in which, to judge f om the press, the aim is less to establish the truth than to implicate the British forces. A latest development is the production of a document purporting to be issued by the Palestine Branch of the British League of Ex-Servicemen, in which this group claims responsibility for the outrage. First indications are that the pamphlet is highly suspect, and may have been fabricated.

9 The abolition terms have been received with tempered satisfaction by expatriate officers to whom they apply. Contract officers are less enthusiastic, while Palestinian officers are dismayed by the provision that His Majesty's Government will only guarantee their benefits until successor states quote are capable of taking over liability unquote, There is a possibility of a strike of Arab officials of the second division supported by the Arab Higher Committee. There is also talk of an application for an order nisi under Article 28 of the Mandate. Arab o ficials are resentful at what they regard as pressure on them to serve under the Commission.

10. Six members of the United Nations staff arrived in Jerusalem 3rd March and have already been able to read in the local press fabricated accounts of their activities.

BRITISH LEGATION
AMMAN
5/1014/48

12 Clear

C.S.725/2

Secretary of State

8/3/48 at 1300 hrs.

No.572 Immediate

Repeated Washington No.155
UNRWA No.598
Damascus No.600

Saving Benin (please pass to Ambassador. C-in-C)
Beirut
Amman
Jedda
Aden
British Consul, Aleppo

INCIDENTS REPORT ~~XXXXXXXX~~ MARCH 7TH:

(1) Attacks on road transport took place in several districts especially Lydda and Gaza.

(2) Jewish snipers opened fire in Haifa. A British newspaper correspondent was slightly wounded.

(3) On the afternoon of March 6th Arabs in Gaza Ridge area opened fire on two military trucks wounding two British soldiers. An Army party arrived and engaged attackers, killing 3 and wounding 4 of them. A shepherd boy was hit by a stray bullet and slightly injured.

(4) Casualties in incidents not specially reported were:-

Arabs	5 killed 9 wounded
Jews	2 killed 5 wounded

(Mr. Rome)

9/3

BRITISH LEGATION
AMMAN
S/1014/48

Clear.

Secretary of State.

1800 hrs. 9.3.48.

No.586 IMMEDIATE.

Repeated to Washington 158, UNSC 613, Damascus 614 S.VIRO to HAGUE (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C-, Beirut, Amman, Jedda Aden. British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 8TH.

(1) During the afternoon armed Jewish youths held up a convoy of G.P.O. vehicles in Jerusalem. The Jewish drivers were detained while the vehicles, one of which contained 90 telephones, were driven off. The I.Z.L. are believed to have been responsible.

(2) A Jewish passenger on S.S. SYRENIA in Haifa port endeavoured to photograph a party of Egyptian Scouts who were en route to Beirut. The latter objected, assaulted the photographer and smashed his camera. A seaman who went to assist the passenger was also injured.

(3) During afternoon of March 7th an Arab taxi travelling between Gaza and Jaffa was fired on by occupants of a passing Jewish armoured car. 4 Arabs were killed, 1 injured.

(4) In other incidents casualties were:

Arabs: 4 killed: 4 wounded.

Jews: Nil.

(Mr. Hone).
10.3.48.

CS 725/2

(4)

BRITISH LEGATION
1 MAR 1948
S/1014/48
AMMAN

[illegible]. Clear.

Secretary of State.

10.3.48. at 1300 hrs.

No. 594 IMMEDIATE.

Repeated Washington No. 159
UKDEL No. 621,
Damascus No. 622
Saving: MEKIN (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C)
Beirut
Amman
Jedda
Aden
British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 9th.

(1) Armed Arabs entered Police M.T. workshops Jerusalem at 1 p.m. held up the Arab staff, and stole a G.M.C. armoured car.

(2) Casualties in other incidents:-
Arabs 2 wounded

Jews 4 wounded.

(Mr. Hone) 10/3/48.

(W/T) FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(5)

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To Se

HMM
1st Sec
2nd Sec

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS. *To :—* H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 11/3/48 (12.45) Received 11/3/48 (13.05)

No. 27 of 10th March, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office 137.

Repeated to Jerusalem(1) Beirut and Amman.

SECRET. [W]

~~Do you see any objection to~~ FOUR American newspaper correspondents in Damascus including a "life" photographer ~~(? words omitted. Check and repetition asked for)~~ have been informed that if they go to NABLUS they will be met and conducted to FAWZI KAWAKJI's headquarters at TUBAS(1).(1) Two have already left by an unknown route, others propose visiting the Lieutenant first.

(CJB/HA)

W30057. D1350. 55M. 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(6)

~~Cypher~~

~~Code~~

Clear

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

To :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS.

Despatched 12/3/48 (11.02)

~~Received~~

No. 10 of 12th March, 1948.

(5)

Your telegram No.137 to Foreign Office.

Please check and repeat from "including" to "informed"

(HDLeM/HA).

W49909. D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher O.T.P.

Code

Clear

From:— Jedda *To:—* Foreign Office

Despatched 1000 March 1st Received

No. 88 of February 29th

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.88 of February 29th repeated for information to Cairo 30, BMEO 40, Jerusalem 18 and saving to:-

Amman....	Saving	No.9
Bagdad...	"	" 10
Beirut....	"	" 10
Damascus..	"	" 10.

Restricted.

Palestine.

In a conversation with a member of my staff Philby has given an insight to Ibn Saud's attitude to Palestine which is probably the explanation for the recent declaration guaranteeing the American concessions in Saudi Arabia which caused so much stir in the Arab League States.

2. He stated that in comparison with his profitable association with the Americans Ibn Saud has little or no interest in Palestine, and that he is distressed by the intransigeant attitude taken by Syria in connection with the Tapline negotiations, and that if it continues Ibn Saud is prepared to see it pass through the Jewish enclave in Galillee on its way to Beirut.

3. According to Philby Ibn Saud is so obsessed by his fear of the aggrandisment of King Abdullah

/that,

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 5/1014/48

(24820) Wt.20030/1000 (26115) Wt.42712/1115 E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

that, while he would probably take no positive action against the Jewish State because of American susceptibilities he would fight to prevent the occupation of Palestine by the Arab Legion.

4. Philby is not a reliable informant and has probably overstated 3 above. His remarks are however a straw in the wind.

BRITISH LEGATION
S/1014/48.
19 MAR
AMMAN

Please find out if Jisr Sheikh Hussein is now open to normal civilian traffic. (8)

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

JERUSALEM,

PALESTINE.

G 2 Confirm that the bridge is not open to normal traffic

No.SF/252/46 6 March, 1948.

SECRET

Dear Pirie Gordon,

The military authorities have asked us to consider reducing the number of legal points of entry into Palestine, which they feel will make it easier for the security forces to check the entry of armed bands using motor transport. The closing of frontier bridges may also, incidentally, make the Jews less keen to attempt to demolish them.

The only point at which we think that action on the lines desired could be taken at the moment is JISR SHEIKH HUSSEIN. Before moving further in the matter, however, we should be grateful for an expression of your own views as to whether the closing of the Bridge would give rise to any great inconvenience on the Transjordan side, or would lead to protests by the Transjordan authorities.

Yours sincerely,

(E.D. HONE)

C.M. Pirie-Gordon Esq.,
British Legation,
Amman.

SECRET

(9)

BRITISH LEGATION,

AMMAN.

(S/1014/48).

12th March, 1948.

To see

(8)

Dear Hone,

Many thanks for your letter No.SF/252/46 dated 6th March, 1948.

The frequent closures of the Jisr Sheikh Hussein Bridge are always greeted with some resentment by the Transjordan authorities and the necessity from the Transjordan point of view of keeping the bridge open was recently the subject of a personal request from King Abdullah to the High Commissioner.

In general terms the argument of people here is, that when normal travel facilities are arbitrarily reduced in the interests of some control or other (e.g. the recent closing of Jisr Majamie by the Palestine medical authorities owing to Cholera in Syria which brought great disorganisation in this country) the only effect is to cause the maximum inconvenience to such few law abiding persons who may remain in this part of the world, while in no way troubling the wicked who do not use legal methods of travel in any case.

In the present proposal it is not clear how the closing of Sheikh Hussein to traffic would really meet wishes of the military, as presumably the M.T. of the Arab partisans do not expect to enter the country legally and would probably not be deterred for long by any barriers at the Palestine end in the nature of road-blocks, barbed wire etc.

If the proposal is to damage the bridge itself so as to render it permanently impassible to traffic I am certain that there would be very considerable opposition from the Transjordan authorities who would see in it a serious check to their freedom of action after the termination of the Mandate. It would also seem a poor reward for their recent successful efforts to stop any large groups of partisans from entering Palestine from this country.

We would be most grateful for any assistance you can give to keep Jisr Sheikh Hussein navigable condition.

Yours ever,

(Sgd.) C. M. PIRIE-GORDON

R.D. Hone, Esq.,
Chief Secretary's Office,
JERUSALEM.

P.S. I am afraid the tone of this letter seems a little "testy" /on re-reading, if so I apologise as it's not so intended!

CMP-G/HA.

(Sgd.) C.M.P.G.

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(10)

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

TO Sec { HMM. 1st Sec. 2nd Sec.

From :— High Commissioner, JERUSALEM *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 9/3/48 (14.30) Received 9/3/48 (20.30)

No. 609 of 9th March, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to Cairo No.43.
SECRET.

Repeated to Secretary of State No.579, Baghdad No.25, Beirut No.608, Damascus No.605, Amman No.609, Jedda No.25, Ukdel No.610 (Washington please pass).

HEBREW Press reports that the Arab Higher Committee(1) fearing increasing popularity of FAWZI QAWAQJI has telegraphed to(1) the MUFTI urging (remainder of telegram undec. - repetition asked for)

BF author text is unavailable

Rcd on 18/3/48
Vide f. 11A

J. F.S
(~~HDLoM~~/HA).

W30857. Dr.500. 5.51. Sports. 10/45.

Code, Cypher or Clear? 6. I.T.

TELEGRAM

C.S.O. 67.

11A

From

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE

Despatched 9.3.48 1300 hours.

To H.M. Ambassador,

Cairo.

GPP. 28281—20,000—8.8.47

No. 43. SECRET IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to H.M.Ambassador, Cairo No. 43: repeated to Secretary of State No. 579, H.M.Ambassador Baghdad No. 25; H.M. Minister Beirut No. 608; H.M. Minister Damascus No. 605; H.M. Minsiter Amman No. 609; H.M. Minister Jeddah No. 25; UKDEL No. 610.

Hebrew press reports that Arab Higher Committee fearing the increasing popularity of FAWZI QAWAQJI has telegraphed to MUFTI urging his early return to Palestine. Reliability of report unknown but it seems intrinsically not improbable. Grateful if all possible pressure may be exerted to keep MUFTI out of Palestine.

Ends.
10.3.48
AN.

Mr Sheringham.

To See { H.M. / 1st Sec. / 2nd Sec.

Copies put on: S/581/41
S/566/41.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To See

HM

1st Sec.

2nd Sec.

(12)

From :— H.M.Minister, BEIRUT.

To :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 6/3/48 (16.35) Received 7/3/48 (08.00)

No. 26 of 6th March, 1948.

Addressed to Jerusalem telegram No.30 of March 6th.

Repeated for information Damascus [Gp Undec Mut. gp.] Amman, Jedda, Cairo, U.K.(1) Del. New York.

SECRET.

Not used.

Your telegram No.41 to(1) Cairo.

I have made the point with the Lebanese Prime Minister. (The latter)(2) appreciated(1) it and undertook to pass on this advice to the proper quarter, though he said he hoped the Arabs "who had not made many mistakes hitherto" would not contemplate any such folly.

(HDLeM/HA).

Yes.

W30657. D1350. 55M. 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(13)

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS. *To :—* H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 13/3/48 (10.53) Received 13/3/48 (11.00)

No. 28 of 12th March, 1948.

(6)

SECRET.

Following is repetion asked for in your telegram No.10 - Begins

Including a "Life" photographer have been informed.

(JFS/HA).

W30657. D1350. 5?M. 10/45.

14.
Clear.

G.R.725/2.

(14)

SECRETARY OF STATE.

at 1800 hrs. 11.2.48.

BRITISH LEGATION
AMMAN
5/1014/48

To see
Mr. Hahn
1st
2nd

IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Secretary of State No.612

Repeated Washington, UKDEL, Damascus.

Saving: Hemin(please pass to Ambassador-C-in-C), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul, Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 10th.

(1) During the afternoon Arabs attacked NEVE YAACOV, Jewish Colony 7 kilos north of Jerusalem. Security forces went to scene and apprehended a stolen police armoured car and three British police deserters taking part in the attack. There were no casualties reported and defences of the colony were not penetrated.

(2) In other incidents following casualties occurred:-

British	1 wounded
Arabs	2 killed
	3 wounded
Jews	1 killed
	7 wounded.

(Mr. Bone)

12th March, 1948.

/JMK

BRITISH LEGATION
14 MAR 1948
5/1074/Pes
AMMAN

15

To See (14)

SAVING TELEGRAM.

FROM: CAIRO DESPD: BY BAG.

TO: FOREIGN OFFICE DATED: 3.3.48.

NO: 38 SAVING.

114

CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 38 Saving of 3rd March, repeated Saving for information to Amman No. 25, Bagdad No. 23, Beirut No. 25, Damascus No. 24, Jedda No. 23, Jerusalem No. 16, Washington No. 1, and U.K. Delegation, New York No. 4.

Your telegram No. 206 to Bagdad of February 27th: Palestine.

I have no comments.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington and U.K. Delegation New York, as my telegrams Nos. 1 and 4 Saving, respectively.

CAMPBELL.

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48. **TELEGRAM.**

(16)

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To See

From :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON. *To :—* H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 14/3/48 (10.42) Received 14/3/48 (11.50)

No. 162 of 13th March, 1948.

IMPORTANT.
SECRET.

Addressed to Cairo telegram No.374(1) of March 13th and to Baghdad, Jedda, Beirut, Damascus, Amman.

Repeated for information to UKDel New York, Washington, B.M.E.O. and Jerusalem.

Not rec'd.

My telegram No.307 to Cairo.

Sir A. Cadogan will now have sent you copies of the documents No.P(NY) 18 to 36. You may similarly use the information contained in any of these documents with the exception of No.32(repeat 32).

S/852/1/46

(HDLeM/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. 10/45.

P.T. 28.

17

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

№

Recei[illegible] from

C. To HM

No. of words 427

by

Prefix Original No. Service Instructions B GOVT

Handed in at JERUSALEM Date 12 at 2125 m. Received here at m.

33641—350 Pads.—10 2.47—G.C.P.

To. IMMEDIATE PRODROME AMMAN

ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY OF STATE NO 624. REPEATED WASHINGTON NO 176 UKDEL NO 677 DAMASCUS NO 678 BEIRUT NO 679 AMMAN NO 680 AND CAIRO 47 .

MY ~~XXX~~ TELEGRAM 619 REPEATED WASHINGTON 172 UKDEL 671 JEWISH AGENCY EXPLOSION . FOLLOWING ACCOUNT IS BASED ON INFORMATION OBTAINED UP TO THE PRESENT FROM POLICE INVESTIGATIONS

2. AT 9.46 ON 11TH MARCH A HEAVY EXPLOSION OCCURRED AT JEWISH AGENCY HEADQUARTER OFFICES IN KING GEORGE AVENUE JERUSALEM FIRE BROKE OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS . RESULTANT CASUALTIES AT PRESENT ARE 13 JEWS KILLED 33 SERIOUSLY INJURED 51 SLIGHTLY INJURED .

3. DUE TO REFUSAL OF JEWS AT THE SCENE TO ALLOW BRITISH OR JEWISH POLICE OFFICERS ACCESS TO THE BUILDING OR FACILITIE TO MAKE PROPER EXAMINATION OF REMAINS OF VEHICLE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE CARRIED THE EXPLOSIVE CHARGE OR TO INTERROGATE WITNESSES IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN AN AUTHORITATIVE VERSION OF WHAT TOOK PLACE IT APPEARS HOWEVER THAT A SALOON CAR BEARING AMERICAN CONSULAR REGISTRATION PLATES AND POSSIBLY FLYING AMERICAN DROVE UP TO JEWISH AGENCY BUILDING . ACCORDING TO SOME WITNESSES (NOT YET INTERROGATED BY POLICE) THE CAR WAS DRIVEN BY ITS NORMAL CHAUFFEUR A CHRISTIAN ARAB WHO WAS IN BLUE CONSULAR UNIFORM AND WAS KNOWN TO JEWISH GUARDS AT ENTRANCE . THE GUARDS THEREFORE ALLOWED THE VEHICLE TO ENTER THE COURTYARD WHERE IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN PARKED CLOSE TO THE KEREN HAYESOD (FOUNDATION FUND) WING OF THE BUILDING . EXPLOSION OCCURRED A FEW MOMENTS LATER . WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DRIVER IS NOT YET KNOWN . IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT A CAR THE DESCRIPTION OF WHICH CORRESPONDS WITH THAT OF THE VEHICLE USED IN THE ATTACK IS MISSING FROM THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL THE CHAUFFEUR LEFT CONSULATE AT 9 A M TO COLLECT NEWSPAPERS FROM A SHOP IN MAMILLAH ROAD BUT ACCORDING TO EMPLOYEES AT THIS SHOP NEITHER HE NOR ANY OTHER PERSON COLLECTED THE CONSULATE NEWSPAPERS NEITHER THE VEHICLE NOR THE DRIVER HAVE YET BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR .

5. FOR REASONS GIVEN ABOVE DETAILS OF DAMAGE TO BUILDING HAVE NOT YET BEEN OBTAINED UT A B.B.C. CORRESPONDENT WHO WAS HELD UNDER ARREST IN THE BUILDING BY JEWS SHORTLY AFTER THE EXPLOSION WAS LATER RELEASED AND ALLOWED TO INSPECT THE DAMAGE THIS CORRESPONDENT IT UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE SAID THAT THE TOP FLOOR OF KEREN HAYESOD WING HAD BEEN SLICED OFF AND THAT THE WALLS FACING THE COURTYARD WERE TOTTERING AND CHARRED BY FIRE HE FURTHER STATED THAT EVERY OFFICE IN THE BUILDING HAD SUFFERED BLAST DAMAGE AND THE 8=10 JEWISH AGENCY TRUCKS AND OTHER VEHICLES IN THE YARD AT THE TIME OF THE EXPLOSION WERE EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED

HIGHCOMA

From

FILE NO.S/1014/48

TELEGRAM.

(18)

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To see { Hum / 1st Sec. / 2nd Sec.

From :— High Commissioner, JERUSALEM *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 15/3/48 (20.00) Received 16/3/48 (11.00)

No. 706 of 15th March, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to Secretary of State 654. Top secret.

Repeated to Washington 187 (Please pass to UKDEL 703) Cairo 48, Beirut 704, Damascus 705, Amman 706, Baghdad 26 and Jedda 26.

In connexion with the infiltration of nationals from other Arab States into Palestine(1) to form the Arab liberation army it is apparent from their(1) impulsive behaviour here that they have no idea of what an embarrassment they are to this Government, unwilling indeed, in many cases(1) seem to think that we are encouraging and even WELCOMING their presence.

2. As examples the following may be quoted;

a) The aerodrome at GAZA has been taken over by the municipality Something over 100 armed EGYPTIANS have established themselves in the aerodrome buildings. When I was due to land there the other day these men(1) approached the local authorities with a request that they might meet me with a guard of honour, and manifested extreme surprise when told that far from doing that they must on no account show themselves. ((1) Which order was METICULOUSLY OBEYED).

b) When FAWZI KAWAKJI was approached by a British official the other day in an endeavour to make him leave the country, he spent considerable time suggesting no doubt that the General Officer(1) Commanding would leave the CACHE of guns and tanks in Transjordan which he could pick up when we depart.

c) A party of armed uniform(Sic) Egyptians under an officer arrived quite openly at Haifa the other day and were most surprised when they were not allowed to land.

This/...2

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To :—*

Despatched Received

No. of

This same attitude is apparent in practically all contacts with these men.

2. Although I have no doubt that His Majesty's Representatives will do all they can to persuade the Arab Governments to stop these INCURSIONS during the next two months there is no doubt that their(1) representations up to the present are meeting with little success. I would hope that the least which could be(1) done would be to pointed out(Sic) what a grave embarrassment these men are to us at this time, and to make clear our attitude towards them. They are(1) just as much illegal immigrants as the Jews whom the Arabs have constantly clamoured for us(1) (? to omitted) stop.

3. It would now appear that all decisions regarding the conduct of the Arabs in Palestine are taken either by the Arab League or the Arab Higher Committee. The later have no effective(1) member in Palestine. Neither Ahmed HILMI PASHA(1), who is the only one here at present, nor Dr. KHALIDI who is here sometimes, carry any weight and have shown no signs of being able to control any of the elements making for (? Palestine omitted).

4. It is for this Government to communicate its policy towards the Arabs directly to any responsible body, or to make effective approaches to those in control when that policy is being infringed.

5. I am therefore more than ever dependent on His Majesty's Representatives in the Arab States, more particularly in Cairo and Damascus to take action to assist us to control not only the unruly Arab elements who have(1) succeeded in INFILTRATING(TW) from other states, but, even through the Arab Higher Committees member(s) outside Palestine(1), the recruits(1) themselves.

6. It has therefore occurred to me that I should make plain(1) to His Majesty's Representatives what our policy is, and request them to use every endeavour to persuade the real leaders not to infringe or else.

W30467. D1350. 55M. 10/45.

(JFS/HDLeM/HA).

COPY.

(1911)

This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on .

Cypher/OTP.

DIPLOMATIC(SECRET).

FROM BAGDAD TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir H. Mack.
No. 216.

D. 6.40 a.m. 24th February, 1948.
R. 7.24 a.m. 24th February, 1948.

23rd February, 1948.

Repeated to Cairo,
British Middle East Office.

(94)

IMPORTANT.
SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 216 of February 23rd, repeated to Cairo and British Middle East Office.

Cairo telegram No. 200 to you paragraph 3 (Question of Iraqi Army entering Transjordan).

Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs returned today and I expect that he will speak to me about this.

2. I should be grateful for instructions.

Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat .

zzz

(W/T).

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(20)

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To Se

From :— H.M.Ambassador, JEDDA. *To :—* H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 11/3/48 (20.00) Received 15/3/48

No. (Unnumbered) 21 of (Undated)

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.105 of March 11th.
Repeated for information to Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, B.M.E.O., Cairo, (Cypher error - from ID) Damascus) Washington, UKDel New York.
SECRET.

Your telegram No.206 to Baghdad: Palestine.

I quite agree that a combined Iraqi Transjordan incursion into Palestine would greatly alarm Ibn Saud.(1) Whether he would "declare war" as one report indicated I cannot say but he would certainly regard such action as sanctioned by us. His attitude at present is that(1) he leaves Transjordan to us relying upon the statement communicated to him by Mr. Clarke as authorised in your despatch 150 of October 11th 1947.

2. My information(1) at present is that AZZAM has told the King that Abdullah does not intend to invade Palestine and that the Syrian Minister here also says that it is unlikely.

3. Should such an invasion take place I suppose loyalists ought to warn other members of the Arab League in advance. At any rate I imagine (2 gps. undec.) would be to assure King Ibn Saud that Abdullah had no hostile intentions and add we were ready to enter into mutual defence arrangements if the King also wished to.

C.J.6
(~~IDLCM~~/IIA).

W30657. D1350. 5SM. 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(21)

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To HMM. 1st Sec. 2nd Sec

From :— H.M.Ambassador, CAIRO.

To :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 18/3/48 (11.00) Received 18/3/48 (11.20)

No. 21 of 17th March, 1948.

Addressed to Jerusalem telegram No.32 of March 17th.

Repeated to Foreign Office, Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, Amman, Jedda, UKDEL New York.

SECRET.

11 A

(Your telegram NO.)(2) 43: The MUFTI's movements.

Member of my staff took up this question with the(TW) Director of the Political(1) Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last week. The Director now reports that the Minister for Foreign Affairs has undertaken to take appropriate measures to keep the Mufti out of Palestine.(1)

Foreign Office please pass to UKDEL New York as my telegram No.3.

Copy to:- S/581/41.

HDLeM/JFS/HA.

W30657. D1350. 55M. 10/45.

(22)

From: High Commissioner for Palestine.

To: Secretary of State.

Date. 15th March, 1948.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 13 MAR 1948 Short Ref.

No. 627. TOP SECRET IMMEDIATE.

Repeated to Washington No. 178 Top Secret. (Please pass to UKDEL as my No. 682).

TOP SECRET. (MEMIN (Please pass to Ambassador Cairo & PICME)
(Baghdad.
(Beirut.
SAVING. (Damascus.
(Jeddah.
(Amman.
(Malta (for C-in-C MED).

My telegram No. 555. Weekly intelligence appreciation.

Negotiations arising out of the agreement in principle regarding the composition of the Provisional Council of the Jewish State reported in paragraph 3 of my telegram under reference have been in progress during the week. As was to be expected passions have run high. The United Labour Party has been particularly exacting in its demands, and has also been strongly opposed to granting representation to the Revisionists. The latter have demanded representation in proportion to the number of votes polled by the party in the Palestine elections to the last Zionist Congress: on this basis they claimed that if Mapai is to receive 11 seats they should receive 5. Further difficulty arose from the request of Agudath Israel for representation equal to that of Mizrahi. The differences have been composed, and it is announced that the Provisional Council to be submitted for acceptance by the Palestine Commission will comprise :

(a) from the Jewish Agency Executive, 5 Labour, 4 General Zionist and 3 Mizrahi.

(b) from the Vaad Leumi Executive, 5 Labour, 3 United Labour, 2 Mizrahi, one General Zionist, one Aleczah Harashah, one representative of Oriental Jewish Communities and one representative of Women's Organizations;

(c) from other unrepresented bodies, 2 Revisionists, 2 Agudath Israel, One Sephardi and one Communist.

The venue of the Provisional Council has not been settled; one source states that there is strong support for Hadar Hacarmel.

3 Apparently as part of these negotiations there have been parallel negotiations between Haganah and the N.M.O. which according to press reports have resulted in a quote final agreement unquote. The Palestine Post of 8th. March spoke of the Jewish Agency's agreement to the co-operation of all Jewish fighting forces. Although the terms of agreement (if there is one) are not known reports say that N.M.O. has agreed to subordinate itself to Haganah command. Despite reference to all Jewish fighting forces it is not thought that Stern Gang is included in the agreement. Conclusion of agreement is said to have been made by both Agency and Revisionists condition precedent for participation of latter in Provisional Council.

4 Paragraph 1 of my telegram No. 432 gave an estimate of the numbers and distribution of the Liberation Army. Since then its numbers have been increased by the following incursions

(a) On or about 24th February two bands said to number together up to 1000 entered Samaria and Galilee. Members were subsequently distributed among the villages of Northern Galilee and/

..2..

and Samaria, while some are believed to have moved south into Lydda and Jerusalem Districts.

(b) a band of up to 500 Yugo-slavs -presumably Bosnian Moslems -passed through Samaria en route to the Lydda District during the first week of March.

(c) on 5/6th March a small party accompanied FAWZI QUAWUQJI.

(d) some hundreds of Egyptians have infiltrated into Gaza District.

There have probably been other unreported entries of smaller contingents. Total number of Liberation Army volunteers is now placed at 6,000. Target figure is said to be 10,000.

5 Reports are conflicting regarding Fawzi's intentions; some say that he has come to stay and others that his visit is only a short tour of inspection. It seems certain that he is determined to avoid clashes with British Forces. Although there is a constant possibility of occasional operations against Jewish Colonies it is not believed that a general offensive is imminent.

6 On 5th March Liberation Army in Samaria arrested a truck driven by an Arab (accompanied by a Yemenite Jew) en route to Nablus with 2 tons of Stern Group explosive. When an attempt was made to dismantle it it exploded killing two British police deserters who were with the Liberation Army and 4 Iraqis.

7 On 10th March a security patrol which had gone to the scene of an Arab attack on a Jewish colony near Jerusalem arrested a stolen police armoured car containing three British police deserters which had been firing on the colony.

8 On 11th March an American consular car was driven into and parked in the court-yard of the Jewish Agency building in Jerusalem. Its driver, a consular employee, then left the premises. Shortly after the car exploded killing thirteen members of the Jewish Agency staff and injuring 74 others. Some damage was done to the premises. Although Jews on the scene showed hostility to Army first-aid party and investigating police officers, responsibility for the incident is generally attributed to the Arabs and there has been no widespread outburst of anti-British feeling such as followed the Ben Yehuda street explosion.

9 Otherwise the week has generally been quieter particularly in the rural areas, but there has been heavy firing and bombing in Jerusalem and on the Jaffa/Tel Aviv border, while Haifa maintains its record of continuous intercommunal violence.

10 Following the completion of police investigations a statement was issued on the bombing of the Palestine Post building on 1st February. The statement emphasised that while the perpetrators were unknown the material furnished by the Jewish Agency was in some instances incorrect and generally could not support the Jewish suspicion that British persons were implicated.

11 As the United States' reluctance to see partition implemented by force becomes increasingly apparent Jewish pro-Soviet feeling is growing proportionatly to the decline in American popularity. There are reports of an understanding between Moshe Sneh and the Yugoslav Government whereby the latter will facilitate Jewish immigration to Palestine in the hope that an influx of Eastern European Jews will sooner or later furnish a majority for the pro-Soviet faction. It is perhaps significant that RONDINE, the illegal immigrant ship arrested on 29th February is believed to have embarked her passengers from Yugoslavia.

12 The Palestine Post of 10th March gave prominence to reports of informal talks in Cairo for a rapprochement between Arabs and Jewish moderate elements. Two members of these are said to have approached the/

the Mufti to feel the pulse of the Arabs and view the possibility of Arab-Jewish understanding on the settlement of the Palestine dispute. The .A.H.C. is said to have expressed sympathy and understanding. Dr.Magnes, asked to comment is quoted as saying that he that he was in favour of stopping the war and of an understanding between Jews and Arabs. But he knew of no delegation or conference.

13 In Jerusalem the draft peace appeal of the Chairman of the Municipal Commission has been politely answered by the A.H.C. which however has found his proposals premature. Ben Gurion answered that if the Arabs would give a guarantee to stop shooting for "a day, a week, a month, a year" the Jews would do likewise, but it was unreasonable to expect the Jews in the Old City to be satisfied with the protection of armed Arabs.

(23)

12 Clear

BRITISH LEGATION
19 MAR 1948
S/1014/48
AMMAN

Secretary of State

15/3/48 at 1300 hrs.

No.644 Immediate

Repeated Washington No.183. UKDEL No.697. Damascus No.698.

Saving: Benin (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C). Beirut. Amman. Jedda. Aden. British Consul, Aleppo.

PALESTINE REPORT MARCH 13TH:

(1) During the night heavy automatic fire and a number of heavy explosions occurred in Katamon area of Jerusalem. A party of Jews had penetrated into area, placed explosives in an Arab building, and after detonating charges retreated under covering fire. Another house in Katamon was also damaged by explosives placed at rear of building. During the attack on Katamon shots were exchanged between Yemen Moshe and Jaffa Gate areas. No Arab casualties were inflicted by attackers, but Arabs claim two Jewish casualties.

(2) At 0140 a part of 50 armed Jews attacked El Husseiniya village in Galilee with mortars and automatic fire. 12 houses were destroyed and the village has now been evacuated. Arab casualties were 12 killed including women and young children, 5 missing and 4 wounded.

(3) In other incidents casualties were:-

Arabs	4	killed
	16	wounded
Jews	3	killed
	11	wounded

(Mr. Hone)

15/3

Clear.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 12 MAR 1948 S/1014/48

(24)

Secretary of State.

1300 hrs. 15.3.48.

No.651. IMMEDIATE.

Repeated Washington 188, UNRWA,707, Damascus 708, Saving: MEMIN (please pass to Commander, C-in-C), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 14TH.

(1) During the night 13th/14th two British Constables absented themselves from their billet in Jerusalem, and 14 Thomson sub machine guns and a quantity of ammunition were found to be missing.

(2) At 0030 hours a bridge on the Haifa/Jenin road was blown up and destroyed by unknown persons believed to be Jews. The road is now impassable to traffic.

(3) At 1500 hours on March 13th 120 armed Jews approached KALJA village Gaza District and fired on Arab shepherds. The latter fled to the village and returned with armed villagers who engaged attackers. During this engagement a Jewish convoy passed through the village and its occupants allegedly threw grenades and opened fire on villagers. Two kilos beyond the village armoured cars of the convoy halted and opened fireon Arabs in the vicinity. In these engagements 7 Jews were killed and 6 wounded. It is not known if there were Arab casualties. At 0630 on 14th a party of Jews travelling in 14 armoured vehicles attacked KALJA village. They placed barrel bombs in Post Office and municipal buildings. Both buildings were destroyed and others damaged. An attempt to blow up Government boys school was foiled. One Arab is believed to have been killed and two wounded. Damage is estimated at £.30,000.

(4) A strike of all taxi and truckdrivers in NABLUS was reported. The strike is in protest against certain taxes levied by Arab guards on all 'buses taxis and trucks entering the town.

(5) Casualties in other incidents were:-

British	1 wounded.
Arabs	7 killed 24 wounded
Jews	6 killed 13 wounded.

(Mr. Rome).
16.3.48.

BRITISH LEGATION
S/1014/48.
19 MAR 1948
AMMAN

H.J.T. to me.

25

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
JERUSALEM,
PALESTINE.

SECRET

No.SF/252/46 9 17 March, 1948.

Dear Pirie-Gordon,

Thank you for your letter of the 12th March (No.S/1014/48) about the Jisr Sheikh Hussein. We have decided to leave things as they are, and the bridge will remain a legal point of entry, at any rate for the time being.

Yours sincerely,

E.D. Hone

(E.D. HONE)

C.M. Pirie-Gordon Esq.,
His Majesty's Legation,
A m m a n .

12 Clear

GR/725/2

(26)

Secretary of State

12/3/48 at 1300 hrs.

BRITISH LEGATION
12 MAR
AMMAN

To Sec. (HMM. 17 Sec. 24 Sec.)

No.621 Immediate

Repeated Washington No.174. UNSCOB No.673. Damascus No.674.

Saving: Semin (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C) Beirut Amman. Jedda. Aden. British Consul, Aleppo.

IN LIMITS PRIOR MARCH 11th

(1) Latest casualty figures in Jewish Agency bombing (which has been separately reported) are 13 killed and 84 wounded. Of the latter 33 are seriously and 51 slightly injured.

(2) During the morning a military convoy following a Jewish convoy on Jerusalem/Jaffa road was fired on by Arabs. 1 British soldier was killed and 2 wounded.

(3) There was heavy firing in the Jaffa/Tel Aviv border area and in Safad and Tiberias. Casualty figures are included in paragraph 4 below.

(4) Casualty figures in other incidents, including paragraph 3.

Arabs	3 killed 7 wounded
Jews	1 killed 15 wounded

(Mr. Hope)

13/3

CS 725/2

27

12. Clear.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 20 MAR 1948 3/1014/48

Secretary of State.

13.3.48. at 1600 hrs.

No. 634. IMMEDIATE. Repeated Washington No. 180, UKMEL No. 688, Damascus No. 689, saving: KEMIN (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 12th.

(1) During the morning an Ethiopian Consulate car was held up in Jerusalem by Arabs. The Consul's secretary and driver, both Ethiopians, were forced to leave the car which was then driven away by the Arabs. The Consul General himself was not in the car at the time.

(2) At midnight on March 11/12 about 200 Jews attacked Kefr Kenna village in Galilee District. Known Arab casualties are three slightly injured. Arabs report there were 25 Jewish casualties but this is not confirmed.

(3) Casualties in incidents not specially reported were:-

Arabs 1 killed
7 wounded.

Jews 5 killed
18 wounded.

(Sc. None) 15/3/48

CS 725/2

12. Clear.

BRITISH LEGATION
TO HIS MAJESTY'S
5/10 14/46
AMMAN

Secretary of State.

DECYPHER 16.3.46. 1300 hrs.

No. 667.

Repeated to Washington No. 152,
Cairo No. 79,
Damascus No. 720,
Saving: MEMO (please repeat to Abbas Ammar)
Beirut
Amman,
Jedda,
Aden,
British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT TAKEN BEFORE MARCH 15th.

(1) During the morning of March 15th a composite patrol of 1 British constable and two soldiers was on duty on border of Arab and Jewish quarters. Whilst outside a large house which had previously been a Jewish strong point but is now vacated, the constable's suspicions were aroused. He entered the house with the soldiers and on opening one of the inner doors an explosion occurred which killed the constable and wounded the two soldiers. The door is believed to have been booby-trapped.

(2) Early on March 15th a T.A.A. aircraft was fired at about 8 miles from Lydda airport. T.A.A. services to Palestine have consequently been suspended.

(3) During the night 14th/15th a party of Arabs entered CHUD-IYA in Tulkarm village Haifa District and placed charges against several houses. 14 houses were completely demolished and 10 damaged. There were no casualties, the village having been evacuated two days previously.

(4) In other incidents casualties were:-

Arabs 1 killed
3 wounded

Jews 4 killed
9 wounded.

(MT. Hope) 17/3/46

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fee

HMM.
12 fee.
2 unfed fee.

CS 725/2

29

12. Clear.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN
S/1314/48

Secretary of State.

17.3.48. at 1300 hrs.

No. 672 repeated Washington No. 193, UNSCOB No. 726, Damascus 727 Beirut No. 728 saving: BERLIN (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C), Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 16th.

(1) In early hours of the morning unknown persons blew up the road bridge of RAS EL MAUDA, using approximately 150 lbs of explosive. The bridge was badly damaged and the road is now impassable. Superficial damage was also caused to Frontier Control Offices.

(2) While passing through a Jewish road block at the entrance to AFULA during the afternoon an R.A.F. vehicle was fired upon by one of the guards and an officer travelling in the car was slightly wounded.

(3) In other incidents following casualties occurred:-

Arabs	2 killed
	2 wounded
Jews	4 wounded
Others	1 wounded.

(Mr. Rome) 17/3/48

12 Clear

08/725/2

80

Secretary of State

18/3/48 at 1300 hrs.

No.689 Immediate

Repeated Washington No.197. UNSCOB No.743. Damascus No.744. Beirut No.745.

Saving Memin (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C). Amman. Jedda. Aden. British Consul, Aleppo.

IMPORTANT REPORT MARCH 17th.

(1) QASTEL Village Jerusalem District was attacked during the morning by a party of Jews. The mosque suffered some damage before the attackers were driven off by the villagers. Jews claim that 5 Jews were either killed or wounded, and that there were no Arab casualties.

(2) In the afternoon an Arab convoy consisting of two trucks and two cars was proceeding from Acre to Haifa on the main road when it encountered a Jewish road block at Sabine. Convoy apparently tried to rush the road block and was met by heavy automatic fire from the Jews. One of the trucks blew up with terrific force and the other which contained ammunition, grenades and firearms, took fire and exploded. The two cars were badly damaged by the explosions and a military truck which was passing was also damaged and its crew of two British soldiers seriously injured. Other casualties were Arabs: 10 killed 7 wounded. Jews 10 seriously and 29 slightly wounded. The explosion caused widespread damage to surrounding houses and brought down electric pylons and telegraph cables. The road is impassable owing to a crater 30 ft in diameter.

(3) During the morning a Jewish bus was mined on the Safad/Rosh Pina road. 12 Jews were wounded.

(4) During morning of 16th about 500 Arabs attacked Beit Geshet colony in northern Galilee.

(5) In other incidents casualties were:-

British	1 wounded
Arabs	1 killed 3 wounded
Jews	12 wounded

(Mr. Hone)

19/3

(31)

Encypher

BRITISH ... AMMAN 5/1014/48

FOREIGN OFFICE, LONDON.

8th March, 1948.

265

1825 9/3/48

SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.265 of 8th March, 1948.

Repeated to B.M.E.O., 93
Washington, 21
U.K.Delegation New York, 5

Cairo, 14, SAVING
Amman, 8, "
Beirut, 8, "
Damascus, 8, "
Jedda, 14, "
Jerusalem, 10, "

114

Your telegram No.206. [Use of Iraqi troops in Palestine].

I have consulted Head of B.A.M.M. whose reactions were as follows:

(a) Iraqi army is needed in Iraq especially in view of low police morale;

(b) Army has not sufficient transport for a large scale move;

(c) One battalion might be spared as a token force although a larger force could be concentrated at Rutbah within the Iraqi frontier as a gesture.

2. See also my telegram No.232.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington and U.K.Delegation New York as my telegrams Nos.21 and 5 respectively.

MACK.

JFB/DLB/HM
JH/FLP
AD/VKM

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(38)

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— High Commissioner, JERUSALEM *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 18/3/48 (13.35) Received 18/3/48 (18.00)

No. 747 of 18th March, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET

Addressed to Secretary of State No.691 Secret.
Repeated to Amman No.747.
My telegram No.658 (Not repeated to Amman)
FAWZI QUWAKJI.

According to a reliable source the person ~~named~~ named spent the night of the 4th/5th of March in Amman with a Syrian merchant who is also a member(1) of the Palestine Defence Committee in Transjordan named SABRI ET TABBA. Quwakji is said to have lunched with King Abdullah on March 5th prior to departure that evening for Palestine. The King is alleged to have presented him with a JEEP, while a Dodge SALOON car was given to him by the Palestine Defence Committee in Transjordan.

2. If it is correct that Quwakji received Royal countenance and support in Amman while en route here as Commander of the Liberation Army in Palestine, this would hardly seem to accord with King Abdullah's pledge reported in Amman telegram to Foreign Office No.39 of January 27th not to permit further (preference - sic - 1 change gives foreign) volunteers to cross Transjordan. Should His Majesty's Minister be in a position to confirm the particulars in the first paragraph no doubt appropriate representations will be made. My telegram No.654 (Repeated to Amman as my 706) is relevant.

3. A further report from a source thought to be well informed has noticed(1) that late in January or early in February last King Abdullah sent Abdul QADIR AL JINDI Chief of Staff of the Arab Legion (at sic ? to intended) Damascus. AL Jindi was to state that the Transjordan(1) Government had decided not to hinder military activities connected with the defence of Pallestine, and was prepared to offer any assistance unconditionally. His Majesty's Minister at Amman may wish to comment on this report.

(18)

(JFS/HDLeM/HA). Copy to:- S/566/41.

W30457. D1350. 55M. 10/45.

4(107)

S/1014/48 (2nd)

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

33

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To* :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 20/3/48 (17.35) ~~Received~~

No. 172 of 20th March, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.172 of 20th March.

Repeated to Jerusalem No. 23

SECRET.

32

FAUZI QUWAKJI.

Jerusalem's telegram No.691 (of 18th March, 1948).

1. The report about the passage of Fauzi Quwakji passing through Transjordan and being received by King Abdullah is correct.

2. Now that the establishment of the Army of Liberation in Palestine seems to have been accepted by all concerned the King and the Transjordan Government have decided that, in view of their own plans, they must establish some contact with that force and so preclude any possibility of its clashing with the Arab Legion. This, no doubt, will entail a modification of the original promise about volunteers by King Abdullah to which Jerusalem refers but it seems the only sensible thing to do in the circumstances.

3. My telegram No.86 (of 13th February, 1948) reported the delegation of Abdel Qader el Jundi to Damascus and the reasons which led to that decision. I cannot confirm or deny that he made the statement attributed to him but having regard to the purpose of his visit he could hardly have said the contrary.

44

(ASK/HDLeM/HA).

W49909. D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

(34)

No: 43.

(E 2439/1017/65)

FOREIGN OFFICE. S.W.1

11th MARCH, 1948.

Confidential.

BRITISH LEGATION
S/1014/48
AMMAN

TO HMM
1st Sec
2nd Sec

Sir,

I desire to draw your attention to the statement, of which a copy is enclosed, made by the Minister of Defence on 18th February in answer to a Parliamentary Question on the supply of arms to Arabs inside and outside Palestine. In particular I wish to stress Mr. Alexander's remark that "our present commitments would have to be reconsidered if it should appear that those arms were being diverted to Palestine". As you know, there is increasing pressure both in this country and in the United States against the supply of arms to Arab States, and should it become clear that the equipment now being provided by His Majesty's Government is either being forwarded to Palestine for the use of guerilla bands there or is replacing other requipment sent there for this purpose I should be compelled to reconsider our policy in this matter and, as suggested by Mr. Alexander, the supply might well have to be suspended.

2. I shall be glad, therefore, if you will in appropriate terms draw the attention of the Government to which you are accredited to Mr. Alexander's statement and explain it as above. You should lose no opportunity of making the same point in conversation with Ministers and officials.

3. A similar despatch is being addressed to His Majesty's Representatives at Bagdad and Cairo, and copies are being sent to His Majesty's Representatives at Beirut, Damascus and Jedda and to the High Commissioner for Palestine and the British Middle East Office.

I am, with great truth and regard,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(For the Secretary of State)

G.A.B. Burrows

Sir Alec Kirkbride, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Amman.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION.

MIDDLE EAST (MILITARY MATERIAL)

50. **Mr. Levy** asked the Minister of Defence what arms and munitions have been supplied or promised by this country to Arabs inside or outside Palestine since the United Nations' decision in favour of partition.

Mr. Alexander: As I stated in reply to the hon. Member for South Portsmouth (Sir J. Lucas) on 4th February, the export of military material from this country to any part of the Middle East is strictly confined to what is required to honour long standing Treaty obligations to certain Arab Governments, which have been accustomed for many years to rely on us for the equipment of their forces. These involve many categories of material, many of them of a very minor nature; some are provided from local resources. I attach below a broad indication of the major items which are being supplied.

No additional promises of military material have been made to Arab countries, and our present commitments would be reconsidered if it should appear that those arms were being diverted to Palestine. There is at present an embargo on the entry into Palestine of all military material except for the security forces of the mandatory Government. No military material has been supplied or promised to Arabs in Palestine.

Details are as follows:

Iraq.—Aircraft, small quantities of 25 pdr. and anti-tank guns, personal weapons, A.A. guns, armoured cars and stores of ammunition for these weapons.

Egypt.—Small arms ammunition and maintenance requirements, including the exchange of small numbers of rifles, pistols, sub-machine guns and mortars.

Transjordan.—Day to day maintenance requirements, mainly ammunition and transport, for the Transjordan Army of 6,000 troops, plus certain weapons and equipment which will be required by that Army on the re-organisation made essential by our withdrawal from Palestine in the near future.

18 FEB 1948

S/1014/48.

CONFIDENTIAL

(35)

20th March, 1948.

To see { 1st Sec. (8) / 2nd Sec.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose for your information the texts of a question and the answer made recently by the Minister of Defence on the subject of the supply of arms to Arab States from Great Britain.

2. As Your Excellency is doubtlessly aware, there is increasing pressure being organised both in the United Kingdom and in the United States of America against the supply of arms to the Arab States and you will appreciate that, should it appear that the equipment now being provided by His Majesty's Government is either being forwarded for use in Palestine or is replacing other equipment sent to Palestine, it would be most difficult for His Majesty's Government to resist a reconsideration of policy in that regard.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Sgd.) A. S. KIRKBRIDE

His Excellency,
Dr. Fauzi Pasha el Mulki,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Transjordan Hashimite Kingdom,
AMMAN.

ASK/HA.

(36)

Cypher Telegram Out OTA 711-713

XXX

XXX

BEIRUT FOREIGN OFFICE

To See

Hyth

1st Sec.

2nd Sec.

Despatched 2100 17/3

204 17th March, 1948

Repeated to:- UKDEL New York No. 3 (via F.O.)
Jerusalem No. 33
B.M.E.O. No. 54
Damascus No. 19 Saving
Cairo No. 10 "
Bagdad No. 8 "
Jedda No. 9 "
Amman No. 9 "

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN
32 S/1014/48

SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office No. 204 of March 17th repeated to UKDEL New York, Jerusalem, B.M.E.O. Saving to Damascus, Cairo, Bagdad, Jedda, Amman.

Palestine.

Minister for Foreign Affairs informed Mr. Evans this afternoon that according to latest reports received from the Lebanese Delegate at Lake Success it was almost certain that the partition plan would go by the board and that opinion there was tending to favour a solution on the basis either of (a) Federation (on the lines of the Lebanese Delegate's last-minute proposal at the Assembly Meeting in November) or (b) Trusteeship (with controlled immigration) for a limited period.

2. Minister for Foreign Affairs said that the Political Committee of the Arab League now meeting in Beirut were opposed to both these solutions and were in favour of standing by the Arab plan submitted at the London Conference.

3. Minister for Foreign Affairs said he feared that

/ the

the Arabs by insisting on too much might lose an opportunity and gave Mr. Evans to understand that he personally inclined to solution (b) in the form of a British Trusteeship.

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Clear **Telegram Out**

BEIRUT

To see: HM, 1st Sec, 2nd Sec, **FOREIGN OFFICE**

(37)

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 22 S/1014/48

209 **19th March, 1948**

Repeated to:-

UKDEL New York	No. 4	
Jerusalem	No. 34	
BMEO	No. 56	
Damascus	No. 21	
Cairo	No. 11	(Saving)
Bagdad	No. 9	"
Amman	No. 11	"
JEDDA	No. 11	"

(36)

Addressed to Foreign Office No. 209 of March 19th repeated to UKDEL New York, Jerusalem, B.M.E.O. and Saving to Damascus, Cairo, Bagdad, Jedda, Amman.

My telegram No. 204. Palestine; Arab League Political Committee.

Following is a translation of statement made by Azzam Pasha on March 18th as published in the local press.

2. "The Political Committee has discussed various aspects of the Palestine question and is of the opinion that it is desirable that the Arab Higher Committee should submit to the Security Council such statements and information as that body might request but only on the basis of the rejection of partition and the non-recognition of Jewish State in Palestine. The Political Committee having also considered U.N.O's request to the representatives of the Arab States at Lake Success

BRITISH LEGATION BEIRUT

/ to

to restore calm in Palestine is of the opinion that absolutely no threat to peace exists in Palestine at present and that it is not the intention of the Arab States to interfere in Palestine by force unless some foreign state should decide to interfere by force for the purpose of applying partition and assisting Zionists there. The present disturbances in Palestine are merely a local dispute arising from the United Nations decision for the partition of Palestine. It is the policy of the Arab States to keep this dispute within its narrow limits."

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(38)

Cypher Telegram Out To Sec { 1st ~~Sec~~ / 1st ~~Sec~~ / 2nd ~~Sec~~ OTA 740 - 742

xxx

xxxxx

BEIRUT FOREIGN OFFICE

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 22 5/1914/68

Despatched 2200 1973

212 19th March, 1948

Repeated to:- UKDEL New York No. 5 (via F.O.)
Jerusalem No. 36
B.M.E.O. No. 58
Damascus No. 23 (Saving)
Cairo No. 13 "
Bagdad No. 11 "
Amman No. 13 "

IMPORTANT
SECRET

(37)

Addressed to Foreign Office, telegram No. 212 of 19th March, repeated to UKDEL New York, Jerusalem, B.M.E.O. and Saving to Damascus, Cairo, Bagdad, Amman.

BRITISH LEGATION BEIRUT

My telegram No. 209.

Palestine; Arab League Political Committee.

Mr. Evans called on Azzam Pasha this afternoon and was informed that no authoratative declaration had been issued to the press. Statement in my telegram under reference is therefore not entirely accurate. Position is as follows:-

The Arabs were being pressed by the United States Government on two points:-

(1) that the Arab Higher Committee representative in Lake Success should take part in the United Nations proceedings, and
(2) that the Arab Governments should ensure that the conflict in Palestine should be localised.

2. Azzam Pasha stated that the United States Government were between the devil and the deep. They had given up any idea of enforcing partition (he had received assurance that United States forces would not repeat not be used for this purpose) and they were now attempting to secure partition by conciliation. The Arab League Political Committee had decided that the wishes of the United States Government as regards (1) could be met and instructions had already been sent to the Arab Higher Committee representative enabling him in close consulatation with the Egypt, Syrian and Lebanese delegates to engage in talks (he had previously only been authorised to make a statement to the Committee of Four) on

/condition

condition that the discussions in no way concerned partition in any form. As regards (2) Arab representatives at Lake Success had been instructed to inform the United States Government that in the view of the Political Committee of the Arab League the disturbances in Palestine were purely local and that it was the policy of the Arab Governments to keep them so. The Arab Governments were therefore prepared to collaborate with the United Nations for the localisation of the conflict and the best way this could be done would be by joint action for the prevention of illegal Jewish immigrants. Azzam Pasha said that he hoped that in this way it would be easier for the United States Government to prevent the despatch to Palestine of an international force without provoking the U.S.S.R.

3. Azzam Pasha also referred to the proposal which he said found some favour in United Nation circles that British administration in Palestine should be prolonged for a limited period (see my telegram No. 204). He personally favoured this (in fact he would have welcomed a British trusteeship for Palestine where Arab pre-occupations were not with immediate independence for that country but with the curbing of Zionist ambitions) and he thought that as a last resort the Arab Governments might also accept this.

4. Discussing the form of any evential settlement. Azzam Pasha said that the psychological moment had not yet come for the Arabs to put forward any definite proposals. This would only be possible when the Jews had given up all hope of the establishment of a Jewish state. Any proposals by the Arabs now would be useless even if pressure were brought on the Jews by the United Nations and by the United States. At the appropriate time (when the Jews might even be offered a Jewish state without danger to the Arabs) the Arabs would be prepared to accept a compromise - i.e. when and if the Zionist spirit had been well and thoroughly broken.

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(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(39)

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To* :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 23.3.48 (13.15) ~~Received~~

No. 179 of 23rd March, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.179 of 23rd March, 1948.
Repeated to Baghdad No. 37 SAVING.
Beirut No. 43 SAVING.
Cairo No. 41 SAVING.
Damascus No. 39 SAVING.
Jeddah No. 37 SAVING.
B.M.E.O. No. 39 SAVING.
Jerusalem No. 47 SAVING.

CONFIDENTIAL.

PALESTINE.

1. The first reactions here to the announcement that the United States of America would no longer support the scheme to partition Palestine were triumph but a little reflection brought home the fact that this decision had settled little of the problems of the future of Palestine.

2. It was suggested frequently that Great Britain might agree to postpone the relinquishment of the mandate. This is not as complimentary to us as it sounds. It arises from the realization that the Jews are not likely to submit to the loss of their state and that there must be some outside authority to prevent a Jewish coup d'etat and to stop illegal immigration.

The announcement that the Arabs would accept trusteeship comes from the same considerations. To the Arabs trusteeship means that the Jews will not be allowed to form their state or to import more than a limited number of immigrants.

It will give the Arabs time to strengthen their preparations for a further trial of strength as the present effort is thought to have gone badly.

3./... P.T.O.

W49909. D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

3. It is anticipated that on or before the 15th May the Jews will form a state of the areas of Palestine in which they predominate and that hostilities between Jews and Arab will continue but with the difference that the Jews will be opposing a United Nation Organisation trusteeship to which the Arabs have agreed in principle.

(ASK/HDLeM/HA).

From: High Commissioner for Palestine.

To: Secretary of State.

Date. 22nd March, 1948.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN S/1014/48

(40)

R

No. 715 TOP SECRET. IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to Secretary of State No. 715, repeated to Washington No. 200 TOP SECRET (Washington please pass to U.D.L. as my No. 756.

Repeated to M.E.C., (Please pass to Ambassador Cairo, P.R.O.).
Baghdad.
TOP SECRET Beirut.
Damascus.
SAVING. Jedda.
Amman.
Malta (for C-in-C. M.D).

My telegram No. 627; weekly intelligence appreciation.

The outcome of the Big Four consultations in the withdrawal of American support for partition was not wholly unexpected by the Yishuv, whose press had already taken care to chill the exuberant optimism of the early part of the week. The disposition has so far been to attribute the unfavourable turn of events to the machinations of His Majesty's Government, which has been credited from the beginning with working for just such a situation as has now arisen. The popularity of the United States must inevitably suffer a sharp decline and while the Russian attitude has, to the moment of writing, not been defined, it is likely that the pro-Soviet faction with its nucleus in the United Labour Party, will register a sharp gain.

2 Rabbi Silver's statement that the Jews would go ahead on the basis of the U.N. resolution of 29th November is likely to be endorsed by the Yishuv, though there must be many heart-searchings over the wisdom of thus transforming the Jewish position from one of obedience to the U.N. to one of open defiance.

3 While the Arab Higher Committee has so far not defined its attitude the general Arab reaction is one of delighted satisfaction at the discomfiture of the Jews, all the more welcome for being totally unexpected. Even if the Arab Higher Committee feels it necessary in consistency with its stand since the 1914-18 war to reject any proposals for a trusteeship, except as a short transitional period to an independent unitary state, it is improbable that they will go further than a formal protest, provided the trusteeship terms are found acceptable by the Arab League.

4 The Arabs show no slackening in their military preparations and the Liberation Army is extending its control. Hebron is understood to be now scheduled for an overdue process of discipline. In some localities ABDUL QADER HUSSEINI's local irregulars have been summarily ordered out. On the other hand Ramallah seems to be firmly in Abdul Qader's grip.

5 Fawzi Quwakji left Palestine during the week it is said to attend a conference in Damascus. There are rumours (as yet unsubstantial) that he has since re-entered this country. He seems to have made his first visit chiefly with a view to consolidating his personal position in local estimation. The attentions of foreign press correspondents are said latterly to be unwelcome, and he is reported to have decided to be less accessible in future.

6 Although there has been a quickening in tempo of Arab preparations during the latter part of the week it would be premature to assume that this is significant of the intensified attacks on communications predicted in the Arab press. The first part of the week was noticeably quieter; and the expected Jewish reprisal for the attack/

..2..

attack on the Agency has not yet materialized. Relations between the security forces and the Arab population remain generally satisfactory with the Liberation Army and the local irregulars desirous of avoiding incidents. The murder of four British soldiers while escorting a Jewish party in Acre on 18th March was probably not symptomatic of any general change of attitude, but arose from local and probably temporary circumstances following the destruction by the Jews, with considerable loss of life to both sides, of an Arab arms convoy two days before.

7 The United Labour Party has fulfilled its threat to withdraw from the Jewish Provisional Council of Government on the rejection of its demand for greater representation. The Revisionists and the Civic Bloc are reported to be deeply dissatisfied at their failure to secure portfolios. The official spokesman of the Jewish Agency has stated that the Agency wishes to make provision in the Council for Arabs residing in the Jewish State. So far as is known no Arab representatives have come forward.

8 The Haganah-N.M.O. agreement is said to be still not officially ratified by the Agency largely because of the opposition of the United Labour Party. It seems however to be in fact already operative. The Haganah has come in for bitter criticism, not only from the dissidents but also from civic circles, for its inefficiency in failing to prevent the bomb attack on the Agency building. It is widely commented that had the defence of Jewish Jerusalem been in the hands of the N.M.O. or Stern Group, the "Palestine Post", the Ben Yehuda Street and the Agency incidents would not have occurred.

9 Negotiations are reported to be in progress between the Haganah and the Stern Group. In Jerusalem and probably elsewhere some understanding at least in connection with anti-Arab operations, is evidently in being. The efforts of the administration to promote a truce between Arabs and Jews have not met with success, and it seems evident that unless there is some radical change in the general political atmosphere of Palestine the City will after the 15th of May be one of the worst centres of disorder in the country. In this connection it must be remembered that according to present plans, not a single British soldier will remain.

10 The Jewish Agency has forwarded to Government and the Inspector General of Police the "findings" of the committee appointed jointly by the Agency and the Vaad Leumi to enquire into the Ben Yehude Street incident. Its findings are that the vehicles were police and army vehicles, that such persons as were seen in the vehicles were British and that the police were negligent in that they did not take steps which could have been taken to prevent the outrage. These findings were immediately released to the press. Although the accompanying mass of Hebrew documents has not yet been closely examined the general trend of the enquiry seems to have been directed to establishing the active participation of British personnel.

11 The background to the statement referred to in paragraph 6 of my telegram No. 555 has now been elucidated. The participation of representatives of non-Arab churches and dignitaries seems to have been obtained by something approaching blackmail on the part of three Arab clergymen of the Anglican, Melkite and Latin communities, who threatened that reluctance to sign the statement would be deemed to indicate an anti-Arab outlook with obvious consequences after 15th May. The Public Relations Officer of the A.H.C. attempted to mislead foreign pressmen into believing that the three patriarchs were present at the meeting in person.

12 A Jewish Agency spokesman has said that armaments have been stock piled at European ports to reach Palestine by sea on May 16th. He claimed that the Agency control about 50 ships for this purpose. The Director of Customs believes that there has been no large smuggling of arms by sea as yet. Factories for the manufacture of small arms are said to be working overtime in Tel Aviv and other Jewish centres.

Clear.

T E L E G R A M.

(41)

From: HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE. To Secretary of State.

Despatched: 22/3/48 at 0400 hrs.

No.721 Immediate.

Repeated Washington No.203. UKDEL No.773. Damascus No.774. Beirut No.775. Memin No,34 (please pass to Ambassador C-in-C).

Saving: Amman. Jedda. Aden. British Consul Aleppo.

At 1150 yesterday a truck drove into West Harbour Street Haifa and parked outside building of Jewish contractors Solel Boneh Ltd. An Arab was seen to descend from truck and run away. Alarm was immediately given Three minutes later vehicle exploded causing extensive damage to the building and setting fire to other vehicles nearby. 6 Jews were killed and 14 wounded by the explosion.

BRITISH LEGATION
5/104/48
AMMAN

(Mr. Hone).
22.3.48.

CS 725/2

(42)

12. Clear.

BRITISH LEGATION
AMMAN
S/1014/48

Secretary of State.

22.3.48. at 1800 hrs.

No. 731. IMMEDIATE. Repeated Washington No. 206, GRAM No. 778, Damascus, Saving: MEFIN (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

My Last Saturday Night Flash.

(1) During the afternoon in Jerusalem there was heavy firing between Jewish Mosha Quarter and the Old City. Some mortar bombs were fired into the quarter from Jaffa Gate area. Shooting is believed to have started with Jews firing at an Arab car proceeding towards Jaffa Gate. It is reported that 5 Arabs were wounded but this is not confirmed.

(2) During the morning near Beit Nabala a military convoy was fired on by four Arabs, who were arrested. Later a military party went to the scene and was engaged by another party of Arabs. In the exchange of firing a British officer was killed and an Arab seriously wounded. Ten Arabs were arrested.

(3) In the early morning a party of armed Arabs entered I.P.C. compound in Haifa, and stole wireless equipment and five saloon cars.

(4) In the early morning unknown persons dressed in military uniform broke into the Customs house at Tulkarm H and stole a large quantity of contraband goods, some office equipment, five firearms and a weighing machine.

(5) During the morning a mine exploded underneath a Jewish bus on the Kfar Saba/Hadera road. Six Jews were killed and five wounded. Security forces went to the scene and arrested two Arabs, one of whom was wounded. Owing to hostility of Jews in the area the Arabs were placed in a military ambulance and driven towards Hadera. On the way a large party of armed Jews held up the ambulance and forced the N.C.O. in charge to hand over the Arabs, who were driven away by the Jews in a truck towards Netanya.

(6) In other incidents following casualties occurred:-

British	1 wounded
Arabs	1 killed 6 wounded
Jews	6 killed 4 wounded.

(Mr. Rose)

23/3/48

CS 725/2.

(43)

Clear.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN S/1014/48

Secretary of State.

1300 hrs. 23.3.48.

DEPTH SA.

No.737.

Repeated Washington 207, UNSC 782, Damascus 783, Beirut 784, Saving: MOSCOW (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C) Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT FROM 22nd.

(1) At 1730 in Haifa Jews dressed in military uniform entered Iraq street in a jeep and a truck. The truck was parked and its driver transferred to the jeep which drove away. The truck blew up destroying a 4 storeyed house, killing 5 Arabs and wounding 31. These are first figures and heavier casualties may have occurred. Arabs later opened fire with mortars at the Jewish business centre. One shell fell short near Police headquarters and killed 2 British constables. Fierce firing broke out between border areas in many sections of the town during the evening. At least 2 Jews were seriously wounded. Police investigations have been difficult owing to anti-British feeling displayed by Arabs following the explosion.

(2) During the afternoon a military force intervened to break up an Arab attack on Jewish Colony KFAR TUV, Jerusalem District, and restored order after firing 25 pounders. Unconfirmed reports state that Arab casualties number 22, dead and injured. Two British soldiers were wounded during the engagement, and two others are missing. During the evening an Arab ambulance brought the bodies of two men to Ramle Police Station. These men appear to have been beaten to death; the bodies had been stripped of all clothing and means of identification and were picked up by the ambulance near the scene of the fighting. They are believed to be the bodies of the two missing soldiers.

(3) There was intermittent firing by both Arabs and Jews in the centre of Jerusalem, causing some casualties to both sides. Figures are included below.

(4) During morning of 21st March two Jewish armoured trucks were damaged by road mines near EL HAM camp, Gaza District. Arabs surrounded the cars, which were disabled, and opened fire to which the Jews replied. The 16 Jewish passengers are reported to have been killed and 6 Arabs are also believed to have been killed. 2 Jewish relief columns endeavoured to rescue occupants of the armoured cars but were unable to do so. In this action 3 Arabs were killed and 6 wounded. In the evening Arabs returning to Gaza from the engagement were fired upon by Jews from YAD MORDECHAI Colony; 2 Arabs were killed and 3 wounded.

(5) In other incidents following casualties occurred:-

British	1 wounded
Arabs	10 killed 11 wounded
Jews	2 killed 9 wounded.

(Mr. Hone).
24.3.48.

Code, Cypher or Clear? 6 I.T.

TELEGRAM

C.S.O. 67.

C.S. 749.

(44)

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN
5/1014/48

From

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE

To S. of S.

Despatched 23.3.48 1300 hrs.

(33)

GPP 28281—20,000—8.8.47

No. 739. Secret.

Repeated AMMAN No. 158 Saving.

In his tel. No. 172 to Foreign Office H.M. Minister Amman states that the establishment of the Liberation Army in Palestine seems to have been accepted by all concerned. I hope that it is clear that the Palestine Govt. (which is closely concerned) has in no way accepted it and does not propose to do so.

ENDS.
23.3.48
NP

Code, Cypher
or Clear? 6 I.T.

TELEGRAM

C.S.O. 67.

45

Fro

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE

To S. of S.

Despatched 23.3.48 1800

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 15 MAR 1948 S/1014/48

GPP. 28281—20,000—8.8.47

No. 741. Secret.

Repeated Amman No. 160 Secret Saving.

33

Amman tel. to Foreign Office No. 172. FAWZI KAWAKJI.

In view of the contents of the above telegram I suggest that Transjordan be added to the list of countries in my telegram 717 to which a protest regarding activities in Palestine of Liberation Army should be addressed. Please see my tel. No. 739.

44

ENDS.
24.3.48
NP

G.G.Grimwood.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(46)

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To see HMM 1st Sec. 2nd Sec.

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS. *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 24/3/48 (17.35) Received 25/3/48 (06.00)

No. 30 of 24th March, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office(1) 155.

Repeated to Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Jedda, Jerusalem, MEMIN and UKDEL New York.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Palestine.

AZZAM Pasha who is now in Damascus for a few days said in conversation with the United States Ambassador Baghdad and a member of my(1) staff that he thought that the time had come(1) for the Arab League to create a provisional Government for Palestine in view of the probability(1) that the Jews would declare a Jewish State. He himself would have preferred to (wait)(2) until May 16th before doing so or at least until the partition had been definitely(1) turned down by the proposed special meeting of the General Assembly.

(LONDON ONLY) Foreign Office please pass to UKDEL As my telegram 7.

(CAIRO ONLY) Cairo please pass to MEMIN as my telegram 59.

(HDM/HA).

W30657. D1350. 55M. 10/45.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S. W. 1.

16th March, 1948.

(47)

(E 2568/2568/G)
CONFIDENTIAL
AND PERSONAL

BRITISH LEGATION
S/1014148.
27 MAR 1948
AMMAN

PA
27.3.48

Dear Kirkbride,

As you requested in your personal letter of the 10th February I wrote to the Colonial Office about relations between the High Commissioner at Jerusalem and yourself. I made the point that instructions to His Majesty's Representatives to deliver protests to foreign governments could only be given from London.

As it happens, I had written on the same lines shortly before, following a complaint from Broadmead in Damascus in connexion with the entry into Palestine of the large armed band which came up against the British Army. As a result of my letter on this occasion, a message was sent to Sir Henry Gurney making it clear that in matters of this sort, His Majesty's Representatives must rely on instructions from London. When writing about your complaints, therefore, I thought it best to ask for action only if the Colonial Office thought that earlier representations had not had the desired effect. In reply, the Colonial Office say they are confident that the correct procedure is now understood and that there is no need to repeat the advice.

I agree, and hope you will not have any further cause to complain. I am sure you will realise, probably far better than we do, the strain under which the Government of Palestine are working and that allowance should be made for the irritation and frustration that officials there must feel.

Yours sincerely

Michael Wright

Sir Alec Kirkbride, C.M.G., O.B.E.,
Amman.

COPY NO...

O.T.A. 760-762. 48

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN
S/1014/48

Cypher Telegram Out.

XXXX

XXXX

From: BEIRUT To: FOREIGN OFFICE

To Mr. Hall. 1st Sec. 2nd Sec.

Despatched: 20.00, 22/3.

No. 220 of March 22nd, 1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem No. 37.
B.M.E.O. No. 59.
U.K. Del., New York, No. 6. (via F.O.).
SAVING Cairo No. 15.
" Damascus No. 25.
" Amman No. 15.
" Bagdad No. 13.
" Jedda No. 13.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 220 of 22nd March, repeated to Jerusalem, B.M.E.O., U.K. Del., New York, and Saving to Cairo, Damascus, Amman, Bagdad and Jedda.

SECRET

(18)

Jerusalem telegram No. 654 to Colonial Office.

Arab irregulars.

When Mr. Evans called on Azzam Pasha on March 19th he took the opportunity of pointing out that the presence of Arab irregulars, however well disposed to the British, was embarrassing to the Government of Palestine, and expressed a hope that reports to the effect that no further volunteers would be sent as long as Great Britain remained responsible for the administration of Palestine were true.

2. Azzam Pasha said that the building up of Arab forces in Palestine was intended to counter-balance organised Jewish forces. With the exception of the South an equilibrium had now been established and Azzam Pasha implied that the Arabs did not propose to infiltrate further forces at present. He pointed out that the Arabs had been heavily defeated whenever they attacked Jewish colonies; such strongly defended positions could not be overcome with rifles and artillery would be required for such operations.

3. As regards the South, Azzam Pasha said that the Arabs had been unable to establish an equilibrium as the Jews there dominated the situation with armoured cars. He had been considering the despatch of some 200 suitably armed Moroccans to deal with the cars and to stiffen the resistance of the tribes. Mr. Evans said he earnestly hoped that they would not be sent at least until after the termination of the Mandate and suggested that they might in the meantime be sent for a period of training. Azzam Pasha replied that they were already well trained but he would endeavour to find some other way of keeping

BRITISH LEGATION BEIRUT

/them ...

them occupied.

4. It would appear from the above that the Arabs do not repeat not intend to reinforce their irregulars with men but to concentrate on the improvement of their armament.

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12. CS.725/2.

Clear.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 27 MAR 1948 S/1014/48

49

Secretary of State.

1500 hrs. 19.3.48.

R

No.702. IMMEDIATE.

Repeated Washington 198, UKDEL 151, Damascus 152, Saving: MEMIN (please pass to Ambassador C-in-C), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul, Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 18th.

(1) There was widespread shooting in Haifa causing casualties to both Arabs and Jews. Figures are included in para.(3) below. In addition one British Government servant was shot and critically injured, and one British soldier was killed.

(2) During the afternoon near AORE a Palestine Electric Corporation armoured pickup carrying 4 Jewish linesman and 4 British soldiers as escort was attacked by Arabs. All occupants of the pick-up were killed. An army truck passing at about the same time was also attacked and one British soldier was wounded.

(3) Casualties in other incidents were:-

Arabs	2 killed
	4 wounded
Jews	14 killed
	5 wounded.

(Mr. Hone).
20.3.48.

12.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN

GS.725/2.

50

Clear.

5/1014/48.

Secretary of State.

1300 hrs. 20.3.48.

No. 706.

Repeated Washington 199, UKDEL.758, Damascus 759
Saving: MEMIN (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C), Beirut Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 19th.

(1) There was widespread shooting in Haifa, resulting in casualties to both Arabs and Jews. One British subject was wounded by a sniper firing into the police security zone. During the afternoon a Jewish armoured truck came under heavy Arab fire and was immobilised. Police and Army who went to the scene also came under fire and one British Constable was killed. The Jewish truck driver was rescued unharmed by the security forces. The truck itself was later set on fire by Arabs and completely destroyed.

(2) A party of 5 Jews attempting to attack [illegible] Arab village, Jenin, during the morning was ambushed by Arabs and all were killed. A further party of Jews arrived and engaged the Arabs. Firing continued until security forces arrived and silenced the Arabs by means of mortar fire. One Arab is believed to have been wounded in these engagements.

(3) During the morning near [illegible] two Arab trucks were stopped at a Jewish road block. The Arab vehicles were forced to drive off the road and the passengers were made to alight. The Jews, numbering about 50, then opened fire, killing 9 and wounding 3 of the Arabs. Only on passenger escaped uninjured. The Jews set fire to the Arab vehicles which were completely destroyed.

(4) Casualties in other incidents were:-

Arabs	6 killed 22 wounded
Jews	5 killed 8 wounded.

(Mr. Home).
22.3.48.

CS 725/2

12. Lear.

BRITISH LEGATION
27 MAR 1948
AMMAN
5/1017/48

Secretary of State.

(51)

21.3.48. at 1300 hrs.

R

No. 720 IMMEDIATE repeated Washington No. 202, [illegible] 771, Damascus 772, saving: [illegible] (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.
INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 20th.

(1) Firing took place throughout the day on outskirts of Jerusalem between Bakor Haim Jewish Colony, and Arab areas of Beit Safafa and Katamon. Trouble started when Jews attacked Beit Safafa, and Arabs counter-attacked. Casualties were not heavy.

(2) Two British soldiers were held up by Jews during the morning in [illegible], Nemle, and their arms and ammunition were stolen.

(3) During the morning in HAIFA, armed Jews dressed in British military uniform held up the staff at a [illegible] Bulk Issue Depot stole cigarettes valued at £ 3400, and drove away in three stolen military vehicles.

(4) During the morning a goods train was derailed south of [illegible] at a point where part of the trackind been removed. Two British soldiers and three Arabs travelling on the train were injured.

(5) In other incidents casualties were:-
Arabs 2 killed, 11 wounded
Jews 2 killed, 7 wounded
Others 1 wounded.

(Mr. Rone) 22/3/48

RESTRICTED

(52)

To see: Hart. 1st Sec. 2nd Sec.

BRITISH LEGATION,

AMMAN.

(S/1014/48).

29th March, 1948.

Dear Eastern Department,

In the course of a recent talk on events in Palestine, the French Minister here, M.Dumarcay, told the Minister that, in the opinion of the French Government, the existence of a Jewish State in Palestine was most desirable as a check to the growing tide of Arab nationalism which was a serious threat to the French position in North Africa.

2. You are in a better position than ourselves to judge how far this statement represents the opinion of the French Government.

Yours ever,

AMMAN CHANCERY.

The Eastern Department,
The Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

ASK/HA.

P.1 A6A/28 08.30 (53) P.T. 28.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS. № _____

Received from C. C. No. of words 221

by _____

Prefix _____ Original No. 6A Service Instructions _____

Handed in at Jerusalem Date 28 at 2.45 m. Received here at _____ m.

Date Stamp

32229—350 Pds.—11.12.42—G.C.P.

To. Immediate Prodrome Amman & &

adressed to secretary of state 788 repeated washington 216 whole 821 Damascus 825 beirut 826 Memin 3 bracket Please Pass to ambassador coming C in C unbracket Amman 827 stop leaving to Aden Jedda British Consul Aleppo stop yesterday morning bracket march 27th unbracket a large convoy of Jewish armoured vehicles left Jerusalem for KFAR ETZION Jewish colony Hebron sub-district stop This move of the Jews was in violation of established procedure stop convoy was not therefore accompanied by a military escort since military were not aware of what was happening stop on return Jerusalem convoy was ambushed by arabs and road was made impossible by numerous road blocks comma mines and large bands of armed arabs stop Jewish relief column was compelled to turn back and despite intervention by Jewish aircraft which are reported to have dropped bombs Jews were compelled to abandon vehicles and take refuge in a house a few Pilots south

From

(S/1014/48). To 1st Sec / 2nd Sec

BRITISH LEGATION,
AMMAN.
30th March, 1948.

(54)

Dear Secretariat,

The Arab districts of Nablus, Ramallah and Hebron are drawing on Transjordan for their food supplies to an ever increasing extent because of the difficulties and dangers of transporting goods from the coast.

The Transjordan Government have asked, in this connection, whether it would not be possible for the necessity to produce Palestine import licenses for consignments of food from Transjordan to be abolished so as to reduce formalities and avoid delays.

We should be grateful if you would enable us to reply in due course.

Yours ever,

AMMAN CHANCERY.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN

(ASK)

The Secretariat,
Government Offices,
JERUSALEM.

ASK/HA.

P.T. 28.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

№ .....

Received from .....

C.

No. of words .....

by .....

Date Stamp

Prefix ..... Original No. ..... Service Instructions .....

Handed in at ..... Date ..... at ..... m. Received here at ..... m.

32229—350 Pds.—11.12.42—G.C.P.

To.

-2-

of Bethlehem stop military efforts to relieve the Jews were unsuccesful yesterday stop one military armoured car ~~white~~ which got through was disabled but crew is believed to be safe stop attempts to persuade Arabs to discontinue have so far been unsuccessful stop Extent of Jewish Casualties not so far known but believed to be considerable stop army is making further attempts to reach Scene

Highcomd

From

Code, Cypher or Clear? 12 I.T.

TELEGRAM

C.S.O. 67.

From

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE

To H.M. Minister, Beirut.

Despatched 27.3.48 1200.

GPP 27440—10,000—22.4.47

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 31 MAR 1948

No. 814. Secret.

Repeated to S. of S. No. 772 UKDEL No. 815 and saving to Cairo Damascus Amman Bagdad and Jedda.

Your tel. to Foreign Office No. 220 repeated to me as 37 ARAB IRREGULARS.

I am most grateful for the efforts made by Mr. Evans on our behalf at his interview with AZZAM PASHA on March 19th. Your co-operative attitude in this and other reppects is greatly appreciated.

2. If a further opportunity presents itself I should be most grateful if the Arab League could be pressed to take steps to see that a far greater degree of control is exercised over Arab guerilla forces in Palestine than is the case at the moment. Otherwise serious clashes with British Forces are inevitable, and indeed some have already occurred. In partecular we cannot fail to intervene energetically if mass attacks on Jewish traffic on main routes and repeated assaults on Jewish quarters in Jerusalem continue on the lines of the last week. The chief offenders are the irregulars operating in the Jerusalem district under Abdul Qader Husseini and to a lesser degree those operating in Lydda and Gaza districts under Assam Salameh. I believe both these leaders look to the Arab Higher Committee for directions, but it is impossible to deal with this body locally here owing to the absence from Palestine of all its responsible members. It therefore seems desirable both in our own and in Arab interests that th Arab League should take the matter effectively in hand.

ENDS.
27.3.48
NP

P.T. 28

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

№

Received from

C.

No. of words

by

Prefix Original No. Service Instructions

Date Stamp

Handed in at Date at m. Received here at m.

32229—350 Pds.—11.12.42—G.C.P.

To. 25A JERUSALEM 298 29 1400 BGOVT OFFICIAL .
IMMEDIATE PRODROME AMMAN .

ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY OF STATE NO 795 IMMEDIATE REPEATED WASHINGTON NO 218 UKDEL NO 836 DAMASCUS NO 837 BEIRUT NO 838 AMMAN NO 839 MEMIN NO 4 (PLEASE PASS TO SAVING JEDDA XXI ADEN BRITISH CONSUL ALEPPO .

MY TELEGRAM 788 KFAR ETZION CONVOY .
AFTER NEGOTIATIONS BY OFFICERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES WITH ARAB LEADERS A TRUCE WAS ARRANGED . JEWS WERE TO BE GIVEN SAFE PASSAGE IN ARMY VEHICLES ON CONDITION THAT ALL ARMS AMMUNITION AND VEHICLES WERE SURRENDERED TO ARABS . AT 4 PM ARMY MOVED IN DESPITE CONTINUED SNIPING BY ARABS . HEWS AT FIRST DECLINED TO ACCEPT CONDITIONS BUT AFTER SHORT DELAY EMERGED AND LAID DOWN THEIR ARMS . JEWS WERE CONVEYED TO JERUSALEM IN ARMY VEHICLES FROM WHICH XXXX ARABS WERE ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY KEPT BACK AND THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT REAR VEHICLES IN THE RESCUE CONVOY WERE FIRED UPON . AS CONVOY WITHDREW ARABS MADE FOR PILE OF ARMS AMMUNITION ETC SURRENDERED BY JEWS XX AND BEGAN TO FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES . IT WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY AT THIS POINT TO WITHDRAW ALL SECURITY FORCES FROM THE SCENE .

2 . 14 JEW WERE KILLED IN THIS OPERATION . 310 WERE BROUGHT TO SAFETY BY THE ARMY INCLUDING 49 WOUNDED . ARAB DOCTORS AND AN ARAB AMBULANCE ASSISTED IN EVACUATION AND CARE OF THE WOUNDED . IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE 4000 ARABS ON THE SCENE WHEN RESCUE OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT

3 DURING AFTERNOON OF MARCH 27TH A JEWISH CONVOY WAS AMBUSHED BY ARABS NEAR NAHARIYA . FIVE VEHCILES WERE IMMOBILISED AND SET ON FIRE . SECURITY FORCES WHO ENDEAVOURED TO GO TO SCENE OF THE ATTACK WERE HEAVILY FIRED UPON AND DID NOT GET THROUGH UNTIL MORNING OF 28TH WHEN IT WAS FOUND THAT 42 JEWS HAD BEEN KILLED . ARAB CASUALTIES BELIEVED TO BE 6 KILLED AND 4 WOUNDED .

HIGHCOMA .

From

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

57

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— Mr.Broadmead, DAMASCUS. *To :—* H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 27/3/48 (16.36) Received 27/3/48 (21.30)

No. 32 of 27th March, 1948.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Your telegram No.3.

Following for Headquarters Transjordan Frontier Force.

Transjordan Frontier Force deserters.

The Syrian Minister for Foreign Affairs have-Sic informed me that they have traced the men quoted in your telegram G.O.202 but have been unable to discover the arms specified.

87

(PW/CJB/HA).

W30/57. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(58)

TELEG. ADDRESS:
[illegible]ODROME AMMAN.

CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH LEGATION,
AMMAN.
30th March, 1948.

REF. NO. (S/1014/48).

Reference to previous correspondence

(Your telegram No.GO 202 dated 23rd January, 1948).

Officer Commanding,
Transjordan Frontier Force,
ZERKA.

2nd Gen. Force

His Majesty's Minister presents his compliments and has the honour to enclose, for information and the documents noted below :-

Subject	Date
Copy of telegram No.32 dated 27th March, 1948, from Damascus, to His Majesty's Minister, Amman, on the subject of Transjordan Frontier Force Deserters.	

H.A.

VK

SF/92/48

59

C.S.O. 67

Code, Cypher or Clear? 5. Clear.

TELEGRAM

From

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE

To His Majesty's Minister, Amman.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN S/1014/48. 27 MAR

Despatched 19th March 1948.

GPP. 27440—15,000—22.4.47

67

No.146. Saving.

Your letter No.S/1014/48 of the 18th February. Military Training by Jews at the settlements of Massada and Shair Hacolan. The representations made by the Transjordan authorities have been noted. Enquiries have failed to provide confirmation of the reported firing by Jews in Transjordan Territory, but a watch is being kept for such activities by means of police mounted and mobile patrols.

IInd Sec. write to MFA accordingly

27.3.48

66, 132

(S/1014/48).

(60)

1st April, 1948.

(132)

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter No.8/2/824 of the 4th March, 1948, on the subject of military training by Jews at the settlements of Massada and Shair Hacolan and to inform Your Excellency that His Excellency the High Commissioner for Palestine has noted the representations made by the Transjordan Government.

The High Commissioner adds that enquiries have failed to provide confirmation of the reported firing by Jews in Transjordan territory, but a watch is being kept for such activities by means of the police mounted and mobile patrols.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Sgd.) C. M. PIRIE-GORDON

His Excellency,
Dr.Fauzi Pasha el Mulki,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Transjordan Hashimite Kingdom,
AMMAN.

MH/HA.

(61)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

19th March, 1948.

(XF10/80D(4/48))

(2) Zfed

Dear Chancery,

Your letter of the 29th January last, (S/1014/48) about your telegram No. 3 to Damascus via London.

You will see from Foreign Office Circular No. 92 of the 17th July, 1946 (copy enclosed) that the cost of telegrams sent by Diplomatic Wireless on behalf of other government departments need not be recovered from them.

Yours ever,

Finance Department.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN
S/1014/48.
26 MAR

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Amman.

To See.

Sd/ [illegible]
1 Sec.
2 Sec.
Ch Acc
31/3.
W/T Operators
HB.

C O P Y

(Y 5242/3/651)

CIRCULAR NO. 092.

FOREIGN OFFICE,
17th July, 1946.

Dear Chancery,

With reference to our circular letter, 052 of 6th May, it has been decided that no charge should be debited to other Government departments for official telegrams sent by diplomatic wireless on their behalf.

In the case of telegrams sent on behalf of private individuals, however, the cost at commercial rate should be recovered locally and the proceeds credited in your account with the Foreign Office as a separate item creditable to "Telegrams".

Telegrams sent on behalf of the British Council should be treated as private telegrams for this purpose except that the cost should be recovered at Government rate from the Council's local representative or, in his absence, should be reported to the Foreign Office for recovery in London.

Yours ever,

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery at

CS 725/2

12. Clear.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN

S/Cor 4/48

Secretary of State.

See

62

24.3.48. at 1300 hrs.

No. 743 IMMEDIATE. Repeated Washington No. 208, UKDEL No. 790, Damascus No. 791, saving: BEIRUT (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 23rd.

(1) During the evening in Jerusalem a 3 ton military type truck was driven towards YEMEN MOSHE quarter. Some distance away the truck stopped and an Arab was seen to jump from it and light a fuse. The truck was then allowed to run under its own power for about 30 yards until it came up against wall of a block of houses in the quarter where it exploded. Between 30 and 40 houses were completely demolished and many others badly damaged. Apart from persons suffering slight injury Jewish forces in Yemen Moshe admit 10 to 15 injured. Heavy firing followed the explosion in which 1 British soldier was killed and 1 British Constable was wounded.

(2) During the morning Hatiqva quarter of TEL AVIV came under fire by Arabs who were thought to be using heavy weapons. No damage or casualties reported.

(3) During the afternoon armed Jews dressed in Army uniform drove up to BEIT YAACOV Hospital, Sadle area, in military type trucks and were admitted on production of work tickets. Jews entered main guard room, held up occupants and stole 7 rifles and 1 revolver. 1 British soldier was slightly injured.

(4) The passenger train from Haifa to Acre was derailed after part of the track had been blown up in front of the train. The engine and five coaches were damaged. There were no casualties.

(5) During the night in HAIFA the Islamic Club was extensively damaged by explosion of a bomb believed to have been brought there in a saloon car. Details of casualties are not yet available.

(6) During the morning near MAJDAL an Arab taxi was fired at by Jews. 5 Arabs were killed and 2 wounded.

(7) In the afternoon near MAJDAL an unidentified aircraft escorting a southbound Jewish convoy is alleged to have fired on Arab labourers working at Government Agricultural station. No casualties resulted.

(8) In the afternoon near YAD MORDECHAI, Gaza District, an armoured Jewish vehicle was blown up by a road mine and 11 Jewish passengers were wounded. A military patrol then escorted the convoy which removed the wounded Jews.

(9) During the night 22/23 March Jebeliya quarter of JAFFA was attacked by Jews. 11 houses and a mosque were destroyed, probably by mortars. 6 Arabs were wounded.

(10) Latest casualty list in the Iraq Street (HAIFA) explosion - see my telegram 737 paragraph (1) - is: 4 Arabs killed including a police constable, 6 wounded in hospital, 20 slightly injured.

(11) In other incidents following casualties occurred:-

Arabs	5 killed
	22 wounded.
Jews	2 killed
	5 wounded.

(Mr. Bone) 25/3/48

12 Clear

BRITISH LEGATION
2-
S/1014/48
AMMAN

CS 725/2

63

Secretary of State

To see { H.M. / 1st Sec. / 2nd Sec.

25/3/48 at 1300 hrs.

No.755 Immediate

Repeated Washington No.207. UKDEL No.87. Damascus No.798
Nesin (please pass to Ambassador, C.-in-C) No.35.

Saving: Beirut. Amman. Jedda. Aden. British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENTS REPORT MARCH 24th

(1) There were widespread ~~xxxxx~~ attacks on road traffic, causing casualties to both sides. Firing occurred in the centre of Jerusalem during the morning and afternoon.

(2) Near Shufat Village, Jerusalem, an armoured Jewish bus was held ~~xxxx~~ up by Arabs, attacked and set on fire. Its escort vehicle was also destroyed. 15 Jews were killed and 11 wounded.

(3) A large Jewish convoy was attacked during the afternoon on the Jaffa/Jerusalem road. Military went to the scene and engaged the Arab attackers with 25 pounders. Three Jewish vehicles were damaged and destroyed and the rest of the convoy returned to Tel Aviv. Details of casualty figures are not available, but Jewish sources say that 7 Jews were wounded and none killed.

(4) In the early morning mortar bombs fired from Tel Aviv fell in area of Hassan Bey Mosque, Jaffa. There were no casualties but damage was caused to surrounding wall of the mosque and to a nearby house.

(5) During the morning an Arab bus was stopped east of Haifa by a Jewish pickup blocking the road. Incendiary bombs were thrown at the bus and intensive small arms fire directed at the passengers. 1 Arab was killed and 11 seriously wounded.

(6) During the afternoon in Haifa an Arab private car was fired upon from a Jewish area. The principal secretary to the Egyptian consul in Haifa, who was a passenger in the car, was killed.

(7) During the morning near Highway Hacharon, Tulkarm, Jews held up and fired at an Arab private car. 3 Arabs were killed and 3 wounded.

(8) In other incidents following ~~xxxxx~~ casualties occurred:-

British 1 wounded

Arabs 7 killed
34 wounded

Jews 5 killed
16 wounded

(Mr. Bone)
26/3

Clear.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN
S/1074/48

CS.725/2.

(64)

Secretary of State.

1600 hrs. 26.3.48.

To see HMN 1st sec. 2nd sec.

No.769. IMMEDIATE.

Repeated Washington 212 GOOD. 811 Damascus 812.
Saving : MEMIN (Please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 25th.

(1) During the afternoon in Jerusalem a Jewish convoy moving into Yemin Moshe Quarter was fired upon by Arabs. This led to an outbreak of fire in which both sides used mortars. Military took up positions and by 1840 the area was quiet.

(2) During afternoon of March 24th Arab and British transport on the Jerusalem-Nablus road came under fire directed by Jews from ATAROT Colony, Jerusalem District.

(3) On the night of March 24th Jews in Tel Aviv directed mortar fire at parts of JAFFA. Arabs returned the fire. 1 Arab was killed and 25 wounded in this attack. Of the latter 8 were seriously wounded.

(4) During night March 24th Jews attacked QA'UN village and other Arab settlements in Nablus District, some 10 houses in Qa'un were destroyed, 5 Arabs were killed and 3 wounded.

(5) In other incidents following casualties occurred:-

British	2 soldiers wounded.
Arabs	4 killed 10 wounded
Jews	5 killed 13 wounded.

(Mr. Home).
27.3.48.

HMM

BRITISH EMBASSY, 65A

CAIRO

1/158/48 31st March, 1948

SECRET

18

Dear Secretariat,

With reference to your telegram to the Colonial Office No. 654 of March 15th, I enclose a note by the Military Attaché of a conversation with the Egyptian Director of Military Operations about the control of armed Arabs infiltrating into Palestine from Egypt. The Ambassador thought it best to act thus through the military channel rather than through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. We have done our best, but it would be optimistic to expect much result from this or any other representation on the subject of helping the Arabs.

3. I am sending copies of this letter to Beirut, Damascus, Amman, Bagdad, Jedda and the Foreign Office.

Yours ever,

(Sgd.) R.L. SPEAIGHT

The Secretariat,
JERUSALEM.

COPY/HME

NOTE

I called on the Director of Military operations on 25th March and spoke as instructed. I chose this method of approach rather than attempting an interview with the Minister of Defence because of the delay and chance of being fobbed off with a sycophantic underling inherent in the latter course. I referred to the incidents at Gaza and Haifa, pointing out that the uniformed and armed persons concerned were not only a source of embarrassment to the mandatory power by their misplaced enthusiasms, but also as illegal a set of immigrants as any that have called down Arab fulminations in the last 8 or 10 years.

The D.M.O. - an officer of considerable acumen and experience - was at first caught off his balance by this, his equilibrium having been previously adjusted to a totally different subject which I had yesterday caused him to suppose that I wished to discuss, and which we subsequently did. He rallied quickly, however, and said that he had not heard of the incidents. He denied knowledge of the Gaza affair.

He went on to imply that neither of these parties had left Egypt under his aegis nor even with his knowledge, and added that uniforms could be bought in the Suqs of Cairo and indeed, frequently were, and were sometimes used for clothing civilian bands etc. Ignoring this pleasing reminiscence of "Der Hauptman von Koepenik", I pointed out that these persons are said to have been armed and that the combination of arms, uniform and nationality would call for considerable ingenuity if it became a matter of explaining their presence in a foreign country. He took the point and, as a subordinate went further and took some notes as to dates and details, his promise to bring it to the notice of his minister, may be less empty than I had feared; I referred again to the matter at the end of this friendly interview, asking him not to omit to acquaint the Minister with the matter, to which he replied that he "certainly would".

(Signed) R.N. THICKNESSE

Brigadier
Military Attaché

everywhere strong, but on the whole the military situation seems to be gradually moving in favour of the Arabs. The economic consequences of the interruption of communications are steadily making themselves felt in the large Jewish centres.

5. Following a joint meeting of the Executives of the Jewish Agency and Vaad Leumi on 23rd March it was announced that a Jewish Provisional Government would begin to function, in co-operation with representatives of the U.N. in Palestine and not later than 16th May. Should the Mandate be terminated before that date the Provisional Government would begin to function immediately. In an explanatory comment the Jewish Agency spokesman said that the General Assembly resolution of 29th November stands and will only cease to be operative if and when the Assembly revokes the vote then taken. If and when it brings about an alteration in the legal position quote we shall have to consider what action to take then unquote. The local significance attached to the joint statement and the spokesman's commentary is that the leaders of the Yishuv are chary of committing themselves to any course lacking U.N. endorsement.

6. Hassan el Tarra has entered Palestine illegally by evasion of the frontier controls and has been propaganding in the Gaza District.

7. [illegible], an American vessel carrying munitions, was diverted into Haifa under emergency powers. There thirteen half-tracked vehicles of military type (which had been manifested as tractors and for which import licences had been issued) were discharged, and removed from the port area in circumstances still not fully established. The master has been ordered not to discharge the remaining warlike stores on board and to leave Palestine waters.

From: High Commissioner for Palestine.

To: Secretary of State.

No. 788. TOP SECRET. IMMEDIATE.

Repeated to Washington No. 214 TOP SECRET. (Please pass to UNDEL as my No. 818).

TOP SECRET SAVING. { UKMIN (Please pass to Ambassador and PICME).
Baghdad.
Beirut,
Damascus.
Jedda.
Amman.
Malta (for C-in-C. MED.)

My telegram No. 715: weekly intelligence appreciation.

Jewish confidence has been somewhat restored during the last few days. To this a number of factors have contributed:-

(a) the resolute attitude of France and Canada in the Security Council,

(b) the pronouncements of Mr. Bevin, Mr. Lie and Mr. Evatt;

(c) the failure of Mr. Austin to introduce the American resolution for elaboration

(d) President Truman's "backpedalling" unquote on Thursday, with his declaration that trusteeship was intended only to fill the vacuum created by the British withdrawal and that he still hoped for partition.

Hopes are now entertained that a two thirds majority will not be found for any new proposals and that the November resolution will therefore stand; and some comfort has been drawn from the continued functioning of the Palestine Commission.

2. Meanwhile local Arab reaction to the trusteeship proposal, which was suspicious from the outset, has been progressively hardening. Al Difa'a daily of 24th March carried a leading article under the caption "No trusteeship" and Falastin daily of March 25th described the new trusteeship as more evil than the Mandate. The likelihood that the Arab League will be able or disposed to influence the Palestine Arabs in favour of acceptance must have been much diminished by President Truman's statement. Nor is a favourable Arab response to any appeal for a truce now as probable as it seemed initially.

3. The prelude intensification of Arab attacks on Jewish communications has materialized. In Jerusalem district in particular an attack on Jewish transport, causing heavy loss of life, now appears to be the tactics of Abdul Qader Husseini. There have also been strong assaults on Jewish colonies - Har Tuv and Qalia Pass. These operations have already led to fairly heavy engagements with the Haganah in which the Arabs have suffered severely. It is difficult to procure a discontinuance of this policy by negotiation since the Arab Higher Committee, which Abdul Qader acknowledges as his superior is no longer represented in Palestine by any effective leader. Unless the Arab League can intervene a deterioration of our relations with the Arabs seems likely, though there is no change in their policy towards us as yet.

4 In Haifa the situation is certainly no better than it was, both sides having made successful use of explosive vehicles, while warfare on the Jaffa/Tel Aviv boundary must be regarded as endemic. The position in Gaza has deteriorated. Jewish reprisals have been everywhere/

..2...

12.

CS.725/2.

Clear.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN

S/1014/48.

Secretary of State.

To

1800 hrs. 27.3.48.

No.786. IMMEDIATE.

Repeated: Washington 215, UKDEL 819, Damascus 820.
Saving: MEMIN (please pass to Ambassador, Cairo), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 26th.

(1) During the morning a goods train was derailed by a contact mine near RAS EL AIN Station. The engine and two wagons were derailed and slight damage was caused to the permanent way and the engine. The driver and fireman, both British soldiers, were slightly injured.

(2) In the morning a Jewish convoy was attacked near BEBI YUBHA Police Post, Galilee District, by approximately 200 armed Arabs. Fire was also directed at the Police Post. Security forces engaged the attackers and the convoy proceeded under military escort. 1 Jew and 1 Arab were killed.

(3) A Jewish convoy was ambushed by Arabs during the morning near BEEBARA village, Gaza. A mine exploded under an armoured car, which was burnt out. Two Jews are known to have been killed; Arabs claim that 12 Jews were killed and Jews state that 6 Arabs were killed, but these reports are unconfirmed.

(4) In other incidents following casualties occurred:-

Arabs 4 killed
8 wounded.

Jews 5 wounded.

(Mr. Hone).
30.3.48.

CS 725/2

68

12. Clear.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN

S/1074/48

Secretary of State.

29.3.48. at 1300 hrs.

No. 797. IMMEDIATE. Repeated to Washington No. 719, UKDEL No. 841 Damascus No. 842. saving: (Rabbath (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 27th and 28th.

(1) Attacks on EFAR STATION and SAMARIYA Jewish convoys have been separately reported.

(2) During evening of 27th in Jerusalem Jews from King George Avenue area fired at and mortared Ammillah road area. Fire quickly spread to Meanhearim, Yemen Moshe, Jaffa Gate, Musrara and Beit Israel areas. Total casualties reported are:-

1 British soldier slightly injured.
Arabs 2 killed; 25 wounded.
Jews 1 killed.

(3) During night of 26th/27th unknown persons cut down and destroye 500 orange trees, 500 grape fruit trees and 700 pine trees at BEN SHEMEN Agricultural School in Ramle sub-district.

(4) During morning of 28th the British Officer Commanding military detachment in the Old City of Jerusalem found an unexploded mortar bomb in the Jewish Quarter. When he attempted to remove the bomb a Jew tried to stop him. An unknown person fired a shot which caused both Jews and military in the area to open fire. One British soldier was killed, and 7 British soldiers including the officer were wounde Jewish casualties were 3 killed and 11 wounded.

(5) During evening of 28th in HAIFA Arab snipers opened fire and wounded 4 British soldiers (2 seriously) and 1 Jew.

(6) The body of a Jewess who had been abducted by Jews in Jerusalem on 26th was found yesterday. Deceased had been shot through the head.

(7) Casualties resulting from other incidents during the two days were as follows:-

British	1 wounded
Arabs	9 killed 15 wounded
Jews	11 killed 10 wounded.

(Mr. Rome) 30/3/48

12.

CS.725/2.

Clear.

BRITISH AMMAN

S/1074/48.

Secretary of State.

69

To Sec

1030 hrs. 30.3.48.

No.808. IMMEDIATE.

Repeated: Washington 223, UKDEL 851, Damascus 852.
Saving: HEMIN (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C), Beirut Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 29th.

(1) During the afternoon on the Haifa/Tel Aviv road armed Jews held up 2 British and 2 Mauritian soldiers, stole their firearms (two sten guns and two rifles) and two 10-ton Army trucks. There were no casualties.

(2) An illegal ship named 'YEHIAM' was brought into Haifa port with following Jewish illegal immigrants: 411 males 224 females and 136 children. Transhipment and despatch to Cyprus effected without incident.

(3) My telegram 790 (not repeated to all) regarding Miss Marston. It now appears that shot was fired from Arab and not Jewish quarter.

(4) My telegram 795 paragraph 3. MAHARIYA Convoy. Bodies of four more Jewish males were found by police yesterday.

(5) Casualty figures for yesterday were:-

Arabs	7 killed
	5 wounded
Jews	2 killed.

(Mr. Hone).
31.3.48.

6. (I.T.)

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN

S/1014/48.

SF/67/44.

(70)

His Majesty's Ambassador,

Cairo.

at 1300 hrs. 30.3.48.

No. 53 SECRET IMPORTANT

Repeated: H.M.M. Beyrout 853
Damascus 854
Amman 855 — (By bag).
Baghdad 31

Repeated Secretary of State No.809 SECRET.

Following prisoners escaped from Acre Prison today HENRY MARTIN DICKSON convicted Military Court Jerusalem for offence contra Regulation 143 (I)(b) Defence (Emergency) Regulations and sentence 5 years imprisonment on 21 February 1948. British Constable LESLIE VICTOR BERNARD SHAW British Constable BASIL ARNOLD EARDLEY BROWN British Constable KENNETH MIDDLETON HAWES. All convicted Military Court Jerusalem for offences contra Regulations 143 (I)(d) and 67 of Defence (Emergency) Regs. and each sentenced to 4 years imprisonment on 8th March.

Above were awaiting transfer to United Kingdom under Colonial Prisoners Removal Act. The offences for which they were convicted arose from attempts to procure arms for the Arabs from the Security Forces.

Am advised that all above persons are extraditable. It is possible that they may attempt to seek refuge in adjacent Arab territories. If they are reported in Egypt grateful if authorities may be moved to affect their arrest and hold them pending completion of extradition formalities. It is most desirable that these escaped prisoners be recovered.

I am repeating this telegram to Beyrout, Damascus, Amman and Baghdad with request that similar action be taken by H.M. Representatives there.

(Mr. Pruen)
30.3.48.

Copy to: Assistant Inspector General
(C.I.D.)

CS 725/2

71

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN

S/1014/48

14. Clear.

To Sec. 1st Sec. 2nd Sec.

Secretary of State.

31.3.48. at 1300 hrs.

No. 824. IMMEDIATE. Repeated Washington No. 725, [illegible] No. 867, Damascus No. 868 having: [illegible] (please pass to Cabexander-C-in-C), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul, Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 30th.

(1) At 1300 hours yesterday Miss Thompson, Jerusalem District Probation officer was shot and fatally wounded by Jews while driving in her car towards Bethlehem. An Arab witness states that Miss Thompson left Beit Nafufa hospital driving her own car towards Bethlehem. A short distance along the road witness observed Jews armed with automatic weapons advancing towards the car. Witness heard Miss Thompson call out "I am British" but Jews walked to within 25 yards and opened fire. The car was riddled with bullets and Miss Thompson was wounded in the head. She die in hospital during the afternoon. (A preliminary report of this outrage was contained in my telegram 821).

(2) In other incidents following casualties occurred:-

Arabs	2 wounded
Jews	4 killed.

(Mr. Hone) 1/4/48

CS 725/2

72

12. Clear.

To see 1st Sec / 2nd Sec

Secretary of State.

5/10/4/48

AMMAN

2.4.48. at 1500 hrs.

No. 834. IMMEDIATE. Repeated to Washington No. 227, UNCCP No. 872 Damascus No. 673, saving: MESSIN (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, dem, British Consul Aleppo.

MILITARY REPORT MARCH 31st.

(1) During the afternoon Jews carried out an attack on Arab positions dominating Jerusalem/Jaffa road at 800 at 0.0 and there was heavy firing by both sides. During the engagement Jews were seen retreating in direction of Nova Eran carrying two casualties. Situation was quiet by 1900 hours. Over 150 Jews are known to have taken part. There are no confirmed figures of casualties but Jews claim to have killed 22 Arabs.

(2) During the afternoon police in Jerusalem searched offices of a British firm which had not been occupied for some days, and found 3 Jews in possession of guns, automatics, grenades and ammunition. One of the Jews was found in next door office of the British Commercial Agent with a sten gun and three magazines. The premises were evidently intended for use as snipers post. The three Jews were arrested.

(3) During the afternoon near Wadi Arab Arabs attacked a Jewish convoy of about 30 armoured vehicles. Arab attackers numbered about 300. It is known 4 Jewish vehicles were burnt out and unconfirmed reports state Arabs were seen driving armoured vehicles into Nablus area. The bodies of 5 Arabs were later found on the scene. Jewish casualties are not known. This attack is believed to have been provoked by Jews firing on an Arab bus in the vicinity on the same day.

(4) By telegram 829. Following is fuller account of train outrage near Ramleh. Three electrically detonated mines were exploded, the first coach was completely destroyed and second coach and engine tender severely damaged. The following two coaches were telescoped and only the engine and last two coaches were left on the rails. Equipment and other signs found in vicinity of electric detonator indicate that outrage was the work of Jews, and Jewish sources admit that it was carried out by Stern Gang. British military personnel were in rear coaches and were not repeat not injured. Casualties, all Arab, are: 24 killed, 61 wounded of whom 42 are hospital cases.

(5) In other incidents yesterday following casualties occurred:-

Arabs	3 killed 8 wounded
Jews	10 wounded.

(Mr. Howe) 2/4/48

Code, Cypher or Clear? Clear.

TELEGRAM

CS.725/2.

C.S.O. 67

From

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE

To Secretary of State.

Despatched 31.3.48 at 1800 hrs.

GPP. 28281—20,000—8.8.47

No.829.

Addressed to Secretary of State No.829: repeated to Washington No.226; UKDEL No.869; Damascus No.870, and Saving to MEMIN (please pass to Ambassador and C-in-C) Beirut, Jedda, Amman, Aden and British Consul Aleppo.

At 1310 hours today the Cairo train was blown up near Benyamina. Casualties so far reported 15 dead 60 injured. No, repeat no British. Further details will follow when available.

(Mr. Grimwood)

1.4.48.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 3-APR 1948 S/1014/E8

CS 7 5/2

74

12. Clear.

BRITISH AMMAN 6-5/1074/48

Secretary of State.

2.4.48. at 1030 hrs.

No. 837. IMMEDIATE. Repeated Washington 228, UNDEL 880, Damascus 881, saving: REMIN (please pass to Ambassador C-in-C), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT APRIL 1st.

(1) During the morning in HAIFA 5 armed men believed Arabs entered Land Settlement Offices, held up the staff, and stole the office registers and a telephone, and drove away in a vehicle belonging to the department.

(2) During the morning a heavy exchange of fire took place between YEMEN MOSHE and ZAIN ABU TOR, Jerusalem, and mortars were used. Firing is believed to have been provoked by a sniping attack on an Arab vehicle delivered from Yemen Moshe.

(3) Jewish casualties in the convoy ambushed at [illegible] (see my telegram 834 paragraph (3)) are now known to have been 15 killed.

(4) Casualties resulting from train outrage at [illegible] (see my telegram 834 paragraph (4)) are now 35 Arabs killed.

(5) Situation generally was quieter yesterday except for Jaffa/Tel Aviv border area. Casualty figures from incidents not specially reported were: (a) Arabs 4 killed, 11 wounded.
(Mr. Hone) 2/4/48 (b) Jews 2 killed, 9 wounded.

12.

Clear.

BRITISH LEGATION
6-APR 1948
S/1074/48
AMMAN

Secretary of State.

1300 hrs. 3.4.48.

No.853. IMMEDIATE.

Repeated Washington 229, UKMIS 863, Damascus 269.
Saving: MEMIN (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C), Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT APRIL 2nd.

(1) Incidents were less in gravity and number than usual.

(2) During the afternoon armed Jews held up 2 military lorries at a road block in Jerusalem District, forced the 2 British drivers and 2 Palestinian escorts to alight, and drove the vehicles away. The lorries were loaded with flour.

(3) During night of April 1st/2nd Jews in the Old City directed sten gun fire at a military post, which replied with bren gun fire. Shortly afterwards the Jews again opened fire with a silenced rifle and military replied with PIAT and 12 mm shells. No casualties reported.

(4) During afternoon April 1st near [illegible] Police station Lydda District armed Jews entered a Jewish owned orange grove in which 11 Arabs were working. Jews opened fire on the labourers, one of whom managed to escape and informed the police. When police went to the scene they found the bodies of 10 Arabs, all of whom had been shot through the head.

(5) Casualties in other incidents yesterday were:-

Arabs 5 wounded

Jews 5 wounded.

(Mr. Hone).
S.4.4.48.

(W/T) (S/1014/48)

TELEGRAM.

Cypher (ID/OTP)

Codex

Clear x

See 89

Cdg Sir Henry on 1/4/48 (16.15)

To 1st Sec.
See 2nd Sec.

76

From :—S. of S. Foreign Office *To* :— H.M. Minister, AMMAN.
LONDON.

Despatched 1.4.48 (11.55) Received 1.4.48 (12.00)

No. 197 of 31.3.48.

IMPORTANT.
CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Cairo telegram No.431 of March 31st. and to Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut, Amman, Jedda repeated for information of B.M.E.O., Ukdel New York, Washington, Jerusalem.

On several occasions recently the High Commissioner (1) Palestine has asked that representations should be made by His Majesty's Ministers in Damascus, Amman about the infiltration of irregular Arab forces across the frontiers of Palestine. It has been suggested in Damascus telegram No.78 (not repeated to New York or Washington)(1)that any representations (1) might be made not only to the governments immediately concerned but to the governments of all member states of the Arab League.

2. I agree such an approach will probably have more effect if it is made in general terms to all the Arab states (1) than if it is made to individual governments in relation to particular incidents. Please therefore make representations the form of which I leave to your discretion to the governments to which you are accredited on the following lines.

3. His Majesty's Government remain responsible (1) for maintenance of law and order in Palestine until (1) the Mandate comes to an end on May 15th. Meanwhile tension is mounting in that country and there is an increasing danger of a (1) majour outbreak of violence. The establishment on Palestine territory of irregular military formations (1) recruited in the Arab states is a factor /

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To :—*

Despatched Received

No. of

is a factor contributing to this danger. The Arab Governments have all assured us that they are anxious to avoid any clash between the Arabs and the British Forces so long as the latter remain in Palestine. There is however a danger that every time an Arab band crosses the frontier into Palestine from a neighbouring state that it will encounter British forces whose duty it will be to repel the invasion. There is also a danger which increases with the subsidizing of bands in Palestine that their activities within the country may involve them in conflict with the security forces of the Mandatory power. Several incidents of this nature have in fact already taken place and they are particularly liable to occur in Jerusalem itself. In bringing these dangers to the attention of the Arab governments HisMajesty's Government expresses the hope that these governments will take effective steps to prevent further violations of the frontier of Palestine and to restrain the irregular forces already established in that country.

4. In support of your representations you might also point out that the attitude of the Security Council and of the General Assembly, if a special session is convened, is bound to be affected by the extent to which the Arab states have shown a sense of their responsibilities (1) as members of the United Nations.

5. Mr. Troutbeck /

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To :—*

Despatched Received

No. of

5. Mr Troutbeck will no doubt take an opportunity of informing Azzam Pasha that these representations are being made in the Arab capitals and will be speaking to him in the same sense.

(H Lem/JS)
(MH..)

W30057. D1350. 55M., (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

(S/1014/48)

TELEGRAM.

Cypher (ID/OTP)

~~Code~~

~~Cipher~~

From:—S. of S. Foreign Office *To*:— H.M. Minister, AMMAN.
LONDON.

Despatched 1.4.48 (11.55) Received 1.4.48 (12.00)

No. 197 of 31.3.48.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

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W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To :—*

Despatched Received

No. of - Page 2 -

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5. Mr. Troutbeck /

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To* :—

Despatched Received

No. of - Page 3 -

5. Mr Troutbeck will no doubt take an opportunity of informing Azzam Pasha that these representations are being made in the Arab capitals and will be speaking to him in the same sense.

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sort(s)). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To See { H.M. / 1st Sec. / 2nd Sec

77

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS. *To :—* H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 2/4/48 (12.00) Received 2/4/48 (12.25)

No. . 34 of 1st April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office 168.
Repeated to Cairo, Baghdad, Beirut, Amman, Jedda, B.M.E.O. UKDEL New York, Washington and Jerusalem.
SECRET.

76

Your telegram No. 431(1) to Cairo.

Irregular Arab Forces.

I saw(1) the Minister for Foreign Affairs this afternoon and spoke to him accordingly, leaving (a-Sic) aide memoire in terms of the 3rd paragraph. I also made the point in the 4th paragraph.

2. The Minister for Foreign Affairs started off with a long (mut. gp.) (4 gps. undec.) machinery about arms in possession of the Jews and said that he understood only a day or two ago our our ~~Officer Commanding~~(1) at Haifa had captured weapons arriving from the U.S.A: he also said that he had information about arms on order by the Jews in several European countries. He said that the Jews had taught the Arabs to copy their methods and who knew the Arabs might not any day attack TELAVIV(1). He then spoke of the truce suggested by the Security Council and I gather that the Syrian acceptance is likely to be conditional on satisfactory disarming of the HAGANAH etc.

Authorities—7

3. On the specific question of the Arab forces the M.F.A. said that they were an Arab(1) (League)(2) rather than(1) a Syrian responsibility. On this I reminded him that a similar communication of mine was being made to all the Arab states but I added that I felt that the Syrians were rather specially involved as the major part of the training took place on their territory and I felt that they must also have(1) considerable weight in the organisation. I therefore(1) hoped that their influence would be brought to bear in the sense of moderation.

4/...2

116

W30055. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To :—*

Despatched Received

No. of

4. The Minister for Foreign Affairs rather surprised me by saying that he gave my communication "a good welcome". But he added that at present the whole situation was in such a state that no repponsible Minister ~~[illegible]~~ of any of the Arab states could from their internal political point of view call off the activities of the irregular forces. He remarked that even King Abdullah had acquiesced in the passage of volunteers through Transjordan.

5. Finally the Minister for Foreign Affairs said that he was attending this evening a meeting of the political committee at which amongst others AZZAM Pasha, the MUFTI and the Lebanese Prime Minister would be present and that he would show them my communication.

6. Azzam Pasha will now be knowing(1) the nature of our representations and I have felt it wiser not even to try and see him before the meeting takes place in order not to let the Syrian Minister for Foreign Affairs feel I am trying to bring pressure on him through Azzam.

LONDON only please pass to UKDEL and WASHINGTON as my telegrams 10 and 8 respectively.

CAIRO only please pass to MEMIN as my telegram 66.

NOTE:- Paragraph 2 - 1st sentence repetition asked for.

(CJB/HA).

WB0057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To See HMM. 1st 2nd Sec.

From :— H.M.Minister, BEIRUT. *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 3/4/48 (11.02) Received 3/4/48 (11.35)

No. 33 of 2nd April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.258 of April 2nd.

Repeated for information to Cairo, Jedda, Amman, Damascus, Baghdad, B.M.E.O., UKDEL New York, Washington, Jerusalem.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Your telegram No.431 Palestine.

I have taken action with the Lebanese Prime Minister who took the point well.

Foreign Office please pass to UKDEL and Washington as my telegrams Nos.9 and 11 respectively.

(JS/HIM/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (Sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48 **TELEGRAM.**

79

~~Cypher~~

~~Code~~

Clear

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To :—* H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS.

Despatched 3/4/48 (16.32) ~~Received~~

No. 18 of 3rd April, 1948.

77

Your telegram No.168 to Foreign Office.

Please repeat paragraph 2 first sentence.

80

(MH/HA).

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To Sec. 1st Sec. 2nd Sec.

80

From :— Mr. Broadmead, DAMASCUS. *To* :— H.M. Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 5/4/48 (19.05) Received 5/4/48 (19.30)

No. 35 of 5th April, 1948.

79

Following is repetition asked for in your telegram No. 18

Begins.

SECRET.

Started off with a long dissertation about arms(TW) in possession of the Jews and said he understood that only a day or two ago our authorities at Haifa had captured weapons arriving(1) from the United States(1): he said also he had information about arms on order by the Jews in(1) several European countries.

(JS/PW/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— High Commissioner, JERUSALEM *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 1/4/48 (15.00) Received 3/4/48 (11.35)

No. 876 of 1st April, 1948.

Addressed to Cairo 54.

Repeated to Beirut 877, Damascus 875, Amman 876, Baghdad 34.

My telegram 53 repeated to Beirut 853, Damascus 854, Amman 855, Baghdad 31 of March 31st.

Escape(1) of(1) British prisoners.

Please note following(1) description of Hawes height 170 age 20 weight 75 build medium clean SHAVEN eyes brown. Shaw height 180 age 19 weight 72 build medium(1) clean SHAVEN eyes brown. Brown height 178 age 19½ weight 70 build medium brown moustache eyes brown. Dickson height 166 age 32 weight 68 build light, GINGER VANDYKE beard eyes blue Ends.

(JS/HLM/HA).

CC

Copy to Dickson file PS

Attach on: File No. S/1007/48

W30657. D1350. 55M. (3 parts). 10/45.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN
S/1014/48

COPY OF TELEGRAM

To see HMM. 1st Sec. 2nd Sec.

82

CYPHER No. 304

TO : FOREIGN OFFICE, LONDON

Date : 18th March, 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 304 of March 18th

Repeated for Information to British Middle East Office No. 109

Cairo	No. 15	SAVING
Jedda	No. 17	"
Damascus	No. 12	"
Beirut	No. 11	"
Amman	No. 11	"

Musa Alami in conversation with Clayton has expressed more than once his belief that the best solution for Palestine is for the Iraqi and Transjordan regular forces on the termination of the mandate to move into the Jewish area and occupy it. They would accompany this move with a statement that they had done this to maintain law and order and that the Arab offer to the Jews of local autonomy as outlined by Camille Shamoun at Lake Success still stood. He thinks however that the idea of an independent unitary state of Palestine is no longer enough. Feeling between Jew and Arab in the country is now too bitter and even if it were not the influence of the Mufti would make an orderly solution on these lines impossible. He has therefore come round to the belief that the best solution would be for it to come under King Abdulla and form one state with Transjordan. This would have the advantage of making the Jews feel less circumscribed.

2. Clayton pointed out to him that aggression on the Jewish area by regular Arab forces would incur the danger of swinging world opinion, especially that of America, which seemed now to be becoming more favourable to the Arabs once more against them. Furthermore it was by no means certain that they would succeed and the state of Iraq today was not such that they could safely detach any regular forces.

3. Hamdi Pachachi, Nuri Said and Fadhil Jamali have spoken to Clayton on the same lines and the same arguments were used to them with, it is believed in the case of the last named, some success.

4. Both Musa Alami and Fadhil Jamali asked whether in the case of the whole question of partition being referred to a special session of the General Assembly and a fresh decision being given on the lines of the Arab plan put up at Lake Success there was any chance of Great Britain undertaking to implement it. They were reminded that His Majesty's Government had repeatedly asserted that they would implement no plan which was not accepted by both Jews and Arabs.

- MACK -

83

S.F. 252.46.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
JERUSALEM,
PALESTINE.

31st March, 1948.

SECRET.

Dear Pirie-Gordon,

I am sorry to revert so soon to the question of Jisr Sheikh Hussein, to which previous correspondence ending with my letter of the 17th March refers. We now understand that no traffic is in fact using the bridge, since it was closed with barbed wire at the time of the cholera restrictions and was not reopened when those restrictions were lifted. Members of the Frontier Control Staff were however reposted to the bridge and are having to be taken there daily by car from Beisan, but as they have no work to do, their time is being rather expensively wasted, and the C.I.D. are anxious to withdraw them altogether. This can be done only if Jisr Sheikh Hussein is removed from the list of legal points of entry into Palestine.

In view of the absence of traffic we hope you will raise no objection to Jisr Sheikh Hussein now being declared no longer a point of legal entry; this will enable us to withdraw the wasted Frontier Control staff, without materially affecting the present situation at the bridge. We do not intend to damage the structure, or render it permanently impassable, so long as it is not misused. The barbed wire barrier will however be left in position.

Yours sincerely,

E.D. Hone

(E.D.Hone.)

30

C.M. Pirie-Gordon, Esq.,
British Legation,
Amman.

SECRET

(84)

BRITISH LEGATION,

AMMAN.

(S/1014/48).

5th April, 1948.

To Hone
2nd See

Dear Hone,

Thank you for your letter No.S.F.252.46 dated 31st March, 1948, on the subject of Jisr Sheikh Hussein.

(83)

Your choice appears to be between removing the Frontier Control Staff and removing the barbed wire as co-existance of these two conflicting elements seems to render their respective functions nugatory. We should naturally prefer the barbed wire to go and the Frontier Control Staff to remain, but if this is really not possible we could doubtless stall objections by the Transjordan authorities for the short remainder of the Mandate.

Yours Sincerely,

(Sd.) C. M. PIRIE-GORDON

E.D.Hone, Esq.,
Chief Secretary's Office,
JERUSALEM.

CMPG/HA.

09.20
S/1014/48

ب ٤٠٥

Received at Amman Date 7/4 وقت الوصول الساعة h. 0815 m. الدقيقة قبلها المأمور Kan	مصلحة البريد والبرق في شرق الاردن يجب ارسال هذه النسخة مع كل استعلام بشأن هذه البرقية THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM تعليمات مصلحية : 3G	خاتم التاريخ BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN TELEGRAPHS

الاشارة المصدر Origin الرقم الاصلي Original No. 31A الكلمات Words 108 اودعت بتاريخ Date 6 الدقيقة m. 1840 الساعة h.

الظهر قبل a. m. بعد p. m.

(1)

Jerusalem

To IMMEDIATE PRODROME Amman الى

addressed secretary of state 874 repeated washing 237 ukdel 915 damascus 916 memin 39 bracket please pass to ambassador 55 and c in c bracket beirut 917 amman 918 and by saving to jedda aden british consul aleppo stop at

From 0645 hours today a party of armed jews من

Received at ..... وصلت مكتب

بتاريخ .....

وقت الوصول الساعة h. الدقيقة m.

قبلها المأمور .....

مصلحة البريد والبرق في شرق الاردن

يجب ارسال هذه النسخة مع كل استعلام بشأن هذه البرقية

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM

تعليمات مصلحية : .....

خاتم التاريخ

الاشارة المصدر Origin الرقم الاصلي Original No. 31A الكلمات Words اودعت بتاريخ Date الدقيقة m. الساعة h.

الظهر قبل a. m. بعد p. m.

(II)

To الى

forced their way into a military camp at pardess hanna and shot indiscrimin at british soldiers stop the commanding officer and six or seven british other ranks were killed stop the jews made good their escape but four persons who are believed to have taken part in the ame

From من

ب ه ٤٠

Received at ..... وصلت مكتب Date ..... بتاريخ الساعة h. الدقيقة m. وقت الوصول قبلها المأمور	مصلحة البريد والبرق في شرق الاردن يجب ارسال هذه النسخة مع كل استعلام بشأن هذه البرقية THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM تعليمات مصلحية :	خاتم التاريخ

الاشارة	المصدر Origin	الرقم الاصلي Original No.	الكلمات Words	اودعت بتاريخ Date	الدقيقة m.	الساعة h.
		31A				

الظهر قبل a. m. بعد p. m.

(III)

To ..... الى

were later arrested near another military camp

HIGHCOMA

From ..... من

86

SUBJECT:- T.J.F.F. Deserters.

H.Q. T.J.F.F.
G/200

2 Apr '48.

British Legation,
Amman.

BRITISH LEGATION
S/1014/48
AMMAN

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication ref S/1014/48 dated 30th March, 1948 enclosing a copy of a telegram from H.B.M. Legation in Damascus.

I should be grateful if you would inform H.M. Minister in Damascus that the Officer Commanding the T.J.F.F. does not wish, at this late stage of the disbandment of the Force, to take any further action in the matter. He would however appreciate it if the deserters concerned might be informed through the Syrian Minister for Foreign Affairs that they have now been struck off strength of the T.J.F.F. and are not now entitled to any post discharge benefits or gratuities.

R. Byers-Jones
Major
for Col.
Comd.
TJFF.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To See 1st Sec. 2nd Sec.

(87)

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

To :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS.

Despatched 5/4/48 (16.45)

~~Received~~

No. 19 of 5th April, 1948.

(57)

CONFIDENTIAL.

Your telegram No.32 (of 27th March, 1948) about Transjordan Frontier Force Deserters.

Following from Headquarters Transjordan Frontier Force.

We do not wish at this late stage of the disbandment of the Force to take any further action in the matter. We would however appreciate it if the deserters concerned might be informed through the Syrian Minister for Foreign Affairs that they have now been struck off strength of the Transjordan Frontier Force and are not now entitled to any post discharge benefits or gratuities.

(HA).

Copy to C.I.S.F.F.

W49909. D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

CONFIDENTIAL

88

TELEG. ADDRESS:
PRODROME AMMAN.

BRITISH LEGATION,
AMMAN.
6th April, 1948.

REF. No. **(S/1014/48).**

Reference to previous correspondence
(Your letter No.G/200 dated 2nd April, 1948).

Officer Commanding,
Transjordan Frontier Force,
ZERKA.

His Majesty's Minister presents his compliments and has the honour to enclose, for information and the documents noted below :-

Subject	Date
Copy of telegram No.19 dated 5th April, 1948, from His Majesty's Minister, Amman, to His Majesty's Minister, Damascus, on the subject of Transjordan Frontier Force Deserters.	

BRITISH LEGATION

H.A.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To* :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 7/4/48 (11.30) ~~Received~~

No. 210 of 7th April, 1948.

IMPORTANT.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.210 of 7th April.

Repeated for information to Baghdad No. 41 SAVING.
Beirut No. 47 SAVING.
Cairo No. 45 SAVING.
Damascus No. 42 SAVING.
Jeddah No. 41 SAVING.
B.M.E.O. No. 44 SAVING.
Jerusalem No. 56 SAVING.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Arab Forces in Palestine.

Your telegram No.431 (of 31st March, 1948) to Cairo.

1. I made the representations orally to the Prime Minister on the 6th of April. He replied that for reasons of which I was aware the presence of the irregular Arab Forces in Palestine was as unwelcome to the Transjordan Government as it was to His Majesty's Government but that it had not been possible for Transjordan which was already suspected by the other Arab States of having ulterior motives to persist in the original policy of denying volunteers from Syria passage across Transjordan territory.

2. He pointed out that although in theory the irregular Arab forces were directed by a Committee of the Arab League in which all state members participated in practice the control was in the hands of the Syrian Government and that the Transjordan authorities had no say in the matter.

3. At my request the Prime Minister undertook to urge upon the other members of the Council of the Arab League at their forthcoming meeting the importance of the Arab forces in Palestine refraining from activities which would bring them into conflict with our forces or prejudice the Arab case before United Nations Organisation.

He/...P.T.O.

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

He remarked in this connection that he would be up against the general belief by the Arabs that it was only because they had resorted to violence that the American attitude towards partition had been modified.

(ASK/HIM/HA).

12 Clear

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 8 - APR 1948 S/1071/48

90

Secretary of State

5/4/48 at 1300 hrs.

To 1st Sec. 1st Sec. 2nd Sec.

No.959 Immediate

Repeated Washington 231
UKDEL 898
Damascus 899

Saving: Tehran (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C).
Beirut. Amman. Jedda. Aden. British Consul Aleppo.

IN TRANSIT BETWEEN APRIL 3rd and 4th.

(1) In early hours of April 3rd a large party of Jews attacked and occupied QASTEL village, Jerusalem District. The village is believed to have been occupied previously by 10 Arab guards only. 9 wounded Jews were later removed from QASTEL. On April 4 the area was quiet with Jews still in possession of the village.

(2) During afternoon of April 3 in the Old City of Jerusalem a British Army Officer accidentally detonated a military land mine and sustained injuries from which he later died.

(3) During night of April 2/3 unknown saboteurs damaged the permanent way and railway telephone lines at three points on the main line in the PASS District.

(4) During night of April 3/4 an Army post in Jewish quarter of the Old City was fired on by Jews. Military returned the fire. There were no known casualties.

(5) During morning of April 4 five armed Jews entered customs department offices in Haifa and stole large quantity of customs department uniforms. Telephone wires had been cut and before police could be informed Jews had escaped.

(6) In other incidents during the two days following casualties occurred:-

British	1	wounded
Arabs	4	killed
	3	wounded
Jews	3	killed
	8	wounded

(Mr. Bone)

5/4

(91)

MESSAGE FORM

W/T Office Serial No. 467

Cipher Office Serial No.

Date 8/4

(11.10)

HMM.

To: Pro

From: Pro Cairo

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 8 APR 1948 S/1074/48

TIME OF ORIGIN	TIME OF RECEIPT
1215/8	0905
Originators No. 247/Sec	Number of Groups
	67

Special Instructions

Indication of Priority

1	03207	. Addressed to		FO 427	4
2	7th April repeated for information				8
3	to JERUSALEM,	AMMAN,	BAGDAD,		12
4	BEIRUT,	JEDDA,	DAMASCUS	stop	16
5	Press reports that secretary general				20
6	of ARAB LEAGUE	has invited			24
7	POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF ARAB				28
8	LEAGUE to meet in CAIRO				32
9	on April 10th for discussions				36
10	on Palestine prior to United nations				40
11	general assembly's special meeting				44
12	on April 16th stop. To please				48
13	pass JERUSALEM as my tel				52
14	38 stop	Campbell			56
15					60
16					64
17					68
18					72
19					76
20					80
21					84
22					88
23					92
24					96
25					100

Time of Enciphering or Deciphering

Cipher Clerks Initials

(S)9206m/GHQP/200,000/11-46

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48. **TELEGRAM.**

92

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON. *To :—* H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 8/4/48 Received 8/4/48 ?

No. 217 of 7th April, 1948.

IMPORTANT.
SECRET.

Addressed to Cairo telegram No.457 of April 7th and to Baghdad, Jedda, Beirut, Damascus, and Amman.

Repeated for information to UKDEL New York, Washington, B.M.E.O. and Jerusalem.

16

My telegram No.374 to Cairo.

Sir A. Cadogan will now have (sent you)(2) copies of documents Nos. P(NY)37 to 57. You may use the information contained in any of the documents with the exception of Nos.47 repeat (? gp.omitted ? 47) and 54 repeat 54.

(JS/HIM/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

COPY

93A

SECRET

HQ ARAB LEGION,
AMMAN,
TRANSJORDAN.
ALG/106

25th March, 1948.

HQ PALESTINE

The preservation of Allenby Bridge is of vital importance to Trans-Jordan. There is at present no road block on the bridge approaches on the Palestine side, with the result that a Jewish armd car could easily break through and reach the bridge, as was done last month by the Jews at Jisr Sh. Husein.

The Arab Legion will accordingly build a road block at the entrance to the bridge head on the Palestine side.

Would you kindly inform the Palestine Police, should this be necessary.

Brigadier
Chief of General Staff

BRITISH LEGATION
AMMAN
8
S/1044/48

H. D. M. to see.

(93)

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
JERUSALEM,
PALESTINE.

SECRET.

5 April,1948.

Dear Chancery,

Headquarters Palestine have passed us a copy of the enclosed signal from Brigadier Glubb and asked for our advice on the terms of the reply to be returned.

We have agreed with the General Officer Commanding that the Arab Legion should construct a road block on the Palestine side of Allenby Bridge, and Brigadier Glubb is being signalled accordingly by Headquarters Palestine.

We and the General Officer Commanding, however, are rather surprised that Brigadier Glubb should thus have apparently intended that Arab Legion troops, not under the command of the General Officer Commanding, should take action on Palestine territory without first obtaining the acquiescence of this Government or of Headquarters Palestine. He must surely realize that the status of the Arab Legion in Palestine has been one of the points constantly raised by the Jews and must, we imagine, know that the Palestine Commission has evinced a good deal of interest in the subject. We have replied to enquiries from all sources that all units and personnel of the Arab Legion in Palestine are under the command of the General Officer Commanding.

/It

Send a copy marked "Personal" to Glubb Pasha with my compliments

9.4.48

British Legation,
Amman.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
JERUSALEM,
PALESTINE.

It is therefore undesirable that any action should be taken by units of the Arab Legion not under the General Officer Commanding's command which should tend to throw doubt on the complete accuracy of this answer.

We and Headquarters Palestine would be glad if you could bring this aspect to Brigadier Glubb's attention and ensure that any further proposals of a similar nature are put to us through you, and that no action is taken until our assent has been signified.

Yours ever,

JERUSALEM SECRETARIAT.

TELEG. ADDRESS:
PRODROME AMMAN.

BRITISH LEGATION,
AMMAN.

(94)

9th April, 1948.

Reference to previous correspondence

REF. No. **(S/1014/48).**

Brigadier J.B.Glubb, CMG., DSO., OBE., MC.,
Chief of Staff,
HQ Arab Legion,
AMMAN.

To see 1st Sec. 2nd Sec.

His Majesty's Minister presents his compliments and has the honour to enclose, for information and the documents noted below :-

Subject	Date
Copy of letter dated 5th April, 1948, from Chief Secretary's Office, Jerusalem, to H.M.Minister, Amman, on the subject of a road block on the Palestine side of Allenby Bridge.	

(93)

H.H.

MESSAGE FORM

95

W/T Office Serial No. 470

Cipher Office Serial No.

Date 10/4

To:	TIME OF ORIGIN	TIME OF RECEIPT
Rio	10/4	1128
From:	**Originators No.**	**Number of Groups**
Rio Cairo		175

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 5/1944 10 APR 1948

Special Instructions

Indication of Priority

03309. addressed to FO no 440 of 9th and repeated for information to AMMAN, BEIRUT, BAGDAD, DAMASCUS, JERUSALEM, JEDDA, Palestine SEMI COLON Egyptian newspaper ZAMANE reports that Egyptian prime minister and minister foreign affairs after consultation have decided that Egypt should support trusteeship proposal and recommend Arab governments to do likewise subject to certain conditions of which most important are (A) trusteeship should be temporary and should constitute sort of transitory period between mandate and regime of full independence (B) object of trusteeship should be realisation of Palestinian unity under a united government comprehending Arab majority and Jewish minority.

Time of Enciphering or Deciphering

Cipher Clerks Initials

MESSAGE FORM

W/T Office Serial No.

Cipher Office Serial No.

Date

To:	TIME OF ORIGIN	TIME OF RECEIPT
From:	Originators No.	Number of Groups

Special Instructions

Indication of Priority

2

UNO should definitely abandon partition project and give arab governments guarantee that trusteeship committee will not work to implement partition or prepare ground therefore.

2. Report adds that above-mentioned authorities also decided to submit to FORTHCOMING meeting of arab league political committee draft constitution for palestine drawn up by higher arab committee in 1945 conferring on JEWS more extensive rights than those enjoyed by minorities in other countries.

F.O please pass to Jerusalem as my tel 39. CAMPBELL

Time of Enciphering or Deciphering

Cipher Clerks Initials

96

10.05

Received at ..... وصلت مكتب

Date ..... بتاريخ

وقت الوصول الساعة h. 8.15 m. الدقيقة

قبلها المأمور

مصلحة البريد والبرق في شرق الاردن

يجب ارسال هذه النسخة مع كل استعلام بشأن هذه البرقية

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM

تعليمات مصلحية GOVT IMMED

خاتم التاريخ

TELEGRAPHS

الاشارة

المصدر Origin Jerusalem

الرقم الاصلي Original No.

الكلمات Words 239

اودعت بتاريخ Date

الدقيقة 16 m.

الساعة h. 8.15 m.

قبل الظهر a. m.

بعد p. m.

To Immediate PRODROME Amman الى

addressed secretary of state 933 repeated washington 247 ukdel 966 damascus 967 beirut 968 amman 974 jedda 29 aden 976 memin 6 (please pass to ambassador and c in c) British consul aleppo 975. beir yassin a press conference last night was given by the jewish

From من

R1

Received at ..... وصلت مكتب

Date ..... بتاريخ

وقت الوصول الساعة h. الدقيقة m.

قبلها المأمور .....

مصلحة البريد والبرق في شرق الاردن

يجب ارسال هذه النسخة مع كل استعلام بشأن هذه البرقية

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM

تعليمات مصلحية .....

تم التاريخ

TELEGRAPHS

الساعة	الدقيقة	اودعت بتاريخ	الكلمات	الرقم الاصلي	المصدر	لاشارة
h.	m.	Date	Words	Original No.	Origin	

قبل الظهر a. m.

بعد p. m.

To ..... الى

[illegible] of 12 [illegible] and [illegible] groups [illegible]

Jerusalem to [illegible] and Jewish correspon[illegible]

following [illegible] gist of [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

of whom were armed men top [illegible]

following casualties [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

From ..... من

[illegible] half of them being [illegible]

Received at ..... وصلت مكتب

Date ..... بتاريخ

وقت الوصول الساعة h. الدقيقة m.

قبلها المأمور .....

مصلحة البريد والبرق في شرق الاردن

يجب ارسال هذه النسخة مع كل استعلام بشأن هذه البرقية

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM

تعليمات مصلحية .....

خاتم التاريخ

TELEGRAPHS

الاشارة	المصدر Origin	الرقم الاصلي Original No.	الكلمات Words	اودعت بتاريخ Date	الدقيقة m.	الساعة h.
			22A			

قبل الظهر a. m.

بعد p. m.

(III)

To ..... الى

children comma 200 wounded semi colon 140 removed to Jerusalem and later ~~[illegible]~~ release semi colon remainder escaped into the hills stop 100 jews took part in attack comma which was known to Haganah comma whose guards allowed the attackers to

From ..... من

mass through stop quote we [illegible]

ب م ٤

Received at ..... وصلت مكتب Date ..... بتاريخ وقت الوصول الساعة h. الدقيقة m. قبلها المأمور	مصلحة البريد والبرق في شرق الاردن يجب ارسال هذه النسخة مع كل استعلام بشأن هذه البرقية THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM تعليمات مصلحية	خاتم التاريخ

الاشارة	المصدر Origin	الرقم الاصلي Original No.	الكلمات Words	اودعت بتاريخ Date	الدقيقة m.	الساعة h.
						قبل الظهر a. m. بعد p. m.

To to attack Comma Conquer and Keep until we have the whole of palestine and transjordan in a greater Jewish state stop this attack is first step unquote stop 11 Jews were killed and about 50 wounded stop quote

From we hope to improve our methods

ب ه ٤

...ived at ..... وصلت مكتب Date ..... بتاريخ وقت الوصول الساعة h. الدقيقة m. قبلها المأمور	مصلحة البريد والبرق في شرق الاردن يجب ارسال هذه النسخة مع كل استعلام بشأن هذه البرقية THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM تعليمات مصلحية	خاتم التاريخ TELEGRAPHS

الساعة	الدقيقة	اودعت بتاريخ	الكلمات	الرقم الاصلي	المصدر	الاشارة
h.	m.	Date	Words	Original No.	Origin	

قبل الظهر a. m.
بعد p. m.

To ..... الى

in future and to make it possible to spare woomen and Children stops if the British Come we shall fight them unquote stop paragraph 2 I would emphasis that the foregoing is an entirely Jewish statement stop actual facts have not yet Been

From

ب ه ٤

Received at ..... وصلت مكتب

Date ..... بتاريخ

وقت الوصول الساعة h. الدقيقة m.

قبلها المأمور .....

مصلحة البريد والبرق في شرق الاردن

يجب ارسال هذه النسخة مع كل استعلام بشأن هذه البرقية

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM

تعليمات مصلحية .....

خاتم التاريخ

الاشارة المصدر Origin الرقم الاصلي Original No. الكلمات Words اودعت بتاريخ Date الدقيقة m. الساعة h.

قبل الظهر a. m.

بعد p. m.

To ..... الى

ascertained but investigation is proceeding as rapidly as possible

Highcomm

From ..... من

97

From: High Commissioner for Palestine.

To: Secretary of State.

Date. 5th April, 1948.

BRITISH LEGATION ADMIRALTY 10 5/04/48

To see: HMM, PUS, 2nd Sec.

No. 835. TOP SECRET. IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to Secretary of State No. 835 top secret immediate. repeated to Washington No. 230 Top Secret (pleasepass to UKDEL as my No. 892.

TOP SECRET SAVING. (UKMIN (please pass to Ambassador and PICUD).
(Baghdad.
(Beirut.
(Damascus
(Jedda.
(Amman.
(Malta. (for C-in-C MED).

66

My telegram No. 783; weekly intelligence appreciation.

Uncertainty as to the outcome of the Security Council meeting has inhibited major political activity by both Jews and Arabs; and the Jews are also awaiting the meeting of the General Zionist Council on 4th April. They have derived comfort from the continuation of the Palestine Commission's labours, and will doubtless derive some further satisfaction from the absence of any direction by the Security Council that the Commission should cease to function pending reconsideration of the Palestine issue by the General Assembly. The expectation is even expressed that the Commission will nominate a Jewish Provisional Government on or before 16th May. These however are virtually the only encouraging features of a disheartening week for the Yishuv. It is becoming generally realized that President Truman's statement was of less significance than was at first thought, and that the U.S's aim is to secure reconsideration of the Palestine problem by General Assembly de novo; it seems certain that the Jews will now reject the proposal for trusteeship even as a temporary measure, though they will not take action contrary to whatever decision the United Nations may now take.

2. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the Yishuv and its leaders are deeply worried about the future. The intensification of Arab attacks on communications and particularly the failure of the Kfar Etzion convoy probably the Yishuv's strongest armoured transport unit - to force a return passage has brought home the precarious position of Jewish communities both great and small which are dependent on supply lines running through Arab controlled country. In particular it is now realized that the position of Jewish Jerusalem, where a food-scarcity already exists, is likely to be desparate after 16th May. The loss of a large number of armoured vehicles has shaken confidence in the belief that they are the answer to most of the problems of supply by road. To maintain morale the Jewish press has been forced to fall back on the well-tried expedient of exaggerating the enemy's losses; but it has been impossible to conceal that on the whole the balance of fighting seems to have turned much in favour of the Arabs, who have strengthened their positions in the large towns, formerly their principal points of weakness. In an attempt to divert public speculation from the long-term significance of the latest trends in the local "military" situation, and from the manifest ineptitudes of the 'Haganah' command the Jewish press, the Jewish Agency spokesman and the Haganah radio have been particularly vicious in their attacks on the conduct of the security forces.

3. It is apparently now the official line to suggest the incompatible theses that the presence of the army hampers Hagana operations/

[illegible]ations and that the absence of army assistance makes it impossible to supply outlying Jewish settlements. The Jews in fact wish for the best of both worlds: to have freedom of action and to be able to rely on the security forces to extricate them from the difficulties in which their actions involve them.

4. To judge from the Arab press no support is forthcoming among Palestine Arabs for an interim trsuteeship. The inclination seems to be to press home what is believed to be a present Arab advantage; and to accept a truce, if at all, only on terms ensuring that the balance will be further tipped in the Arab's favour. It is clear that almost any form of foreign administration is suspect of partiality towards the Jews. Hence any trusteeship except that of the Arab states is feared likely to strengthen the Jewish position relatively to the Arabs. There is a growing consciousness of the administrative anarchy that is likely to prevail after 15th May., but generally this is accepted as largely inevitable. A member of the Arab Higher Committee is quoted as saying that in Arab administration only two departments are requisite for the time being: war and supply. "Palastin" however has been critical of this attitude, and has suggested that a system of civilian 'military Governors' should be established alongside the 'military commanders', so that the latter should not be hampered by having to attend to matters outside their sphere and also in order to ensure that some form of civil administration continues; while Dr. Khalidi has stated that the Arab Higher Committee intends to do all that it can for the maintenance of at least the essential service of Government.

5 The position of the Jews in the Old City has again come into prominence. The Supreme Moslem Council replying to an invitation to a round table conference with representatives of the Rabbinate said that it did not think it could give a final reply and that therefore it did not consider that the conference would serve a useful purpose; this is interpreted to mean that it has referred the matter to the A.H.C. for directions. The Proposal that the Hagana and the dissident elements in the Old City should be removed has been characterized as "dangerous nonsense" by the Jewish Agency spokesman. That Arab apprehensions on this score are not unreasonable was illustrated during the week b the killing of one British soldier and the wounding of an officer and 5 O.R's b Jews in the Old City; the Stern Group has expressed satisfaction at this incident.

6. A particularly regrettable casualty of the week was Miss J.M. Thompson of the Department of Social Welfare who was shot and fatally wounded while motoring on the Bethlehem road by persons believed to be Jews.

7. As the date for withdrawal from Jerusalem draws nearer both sides are getting into positions from which they hope to be able to occupy strategic points immediately the Government and the security forces vacate them. This preliminary manoeuvre has already resulted in nodal points of communications in the town coming under fire from both sides; as it is likely that the process will continue and intensify it may add considerably to local difficulties. Local expectations is that after 15th May Jerusalem will be one of the fiercest battle-centres. Haifa had a quieter week; the endemic strife on the Jaffa/Tel Aviv border has continued without marked increase or diminution of intensity. The blowing up of the Cairo train b the dissidents with heavy Arab casualties has added to the task of maintaining rail communications.

7 Great difficulty is being experienced in administering the prisons and detention camps since local staff can no longer be relied upon. There have been several escapes of Jews from Athlit, and four British subjects who had been convicted for offences against the Defence (Emergency) Regulations and who were awaiting transfer to the U.K. succeeded in breaking out of Acre prison.

8. The Stern Group has made a broadcast reaffirming its belief that close alliance with U.S.S.R. is the correct policy for the Yishuv.

98

Telegram OUT.

Fr: Damascus. To: Foreign Office.

Desp: 1250 7/4. Cypher.

Telegram No. 177 of 7th April, 1948.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 177 repeated to Jerusalem No. 58 and Saving to B.M.E.O. No.11, U.K. Del. New York No. 1, Amman No. 9, Bagdad No. 6, Cairo No. 3, Beirut No. 7 and Jedda No. 8.

Members of the Arab Higher Committee present in Damascus for ceremonies in honour of the late Saadallah Jabri are reported in the Damascus Press to have met under the Presidency of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem and to have called on Arab officials in Palestine to stay at their posts.

2. There are indications that the presence of the ex-Mufti and the deliberations of the Arab Higher Committee in Damascus are not welcome to the Syrian Government and President; this is probably because of the Mufti's obvious intention to build up Abdul Qader Husseini as the leader of the strongest Arab force in Palestine.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN
12 S/1014/48.

w/o Foreign interference but and this GOC
Arab reactions to direct action
Jewish " " " "
TJ case is helped by Arab Pol despair

(99)

عبد الله بن الحسين

عمان فى ٤ جمادى الآخر ١٣٦٧
الموافق ١٩٤٨/٤/١٢

سعادة الوزير المفوض البريطانى بالحكومة الاكرم

عزيزى سيـــر آليك

نظرا لغياب رئيس الوزراء فى اجازته ولتحرج الحال فى لواء القدس فى غير مصلحة العرب ولحادث دير ياسين الفظيع وما قام به قسم الارغون من قتل الذراراى والنساء ـ وقد كانوا على تفنا هم مع المستعمرات اليهودية التى تجاورهم ـ والاحتمال تحرج الوضع يوما فيوما الى ١٥ ايار اقول انه نظرا لكل تلك الاعتبارات ولانكماش جيش الانقاذ الوراد من سوريا كما يسمونه فى جبال نابلس اقول انه من الخطر على شرقى الاردن الوقوف حتى يتم لليهود استعدادهم للتحصن فى الاماكن الاستراتيجية ونحن ننظر اليهم هكذا بدون ان نعمل مايحفظ نقاط نظرنا امام الخطر المقبل انه يتحتم على ان اطلب من حكومة جلالته عدم الاعتراض على التدابير العسكرية الواجبة الاتباع بدون ان نعتدى على قرى يهودية او اى مستعمرة لهم بل ستقتصر حركاتنا التحفظية على الاحتفاظ بالحالة الراهنة فى الاماكن التى للعرب وبيد العرب والتى كانت لهم كالقسطل ودير ياسين حتى باب الواد ، اؤمل ان اتلقى مايريح البال بالنسبة لهذا الوضع الخطر الذى كلما مر يوم جعلنى فى قلق وجعل اهل شرقى الاردن فى خوف من مستقبل الايام كما انه من الممكن تعرض العرب على مراكز اليهود فى الاغوار والعلى علم انها حصينة ولكنه ان وقع هذا وهذه الاماكن على مسمع منا ومرأى فلا شك من انه سيمد العرب العرب حكومة وشعبا وسيقع مايشق علينا جميعا فيما كنا نؤمل من سكينة الى حين انهاء وقت الانتداب وزمنه المحدود ارجوكم مخابرة حكومة جلالتـــه والقيادة العامـــة بفلسطين وايضاح الحالة ايضاحا يشفينى وانى فى انتظار ذلك اعدكم بانى عامل على عدم التسبب لاى شكل يجعل مهام المندوب السامى والقيادة فى متناول صعب الا مايقع رغما عما اريد واسعى اليه عزيزى

الصريح ابراهيم

Sec 398/Ree.
15/4/48
to the Bureau.

P.A. Invited
HM to draft reply
this
C.A.
13/4/48

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48

TELEGRAM.

100

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON. *To* :—H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 12/4/48 (11.00) Received 12/4/48 (11.10)

No. 220 of 10th April, 1948.

SECRET.

Addressed to Amman telegram No.220 of April 10th.

Repeated for information to B.M.E.O. UKDEL New York, Cairo, Baghdad, Jedda, (gp.undec. ? Beirut intended) Damascus, Washington and Jerusalem.

We shall be grateful for up to date appreciation of King Abdullah's intentions with regard to Palestine. Do you think he still proposes to send the Arab Legion into Palestine after May 15th ? Has he any understanding on this subject with the committee of the Arab League which is directing operations in Palestine ?

2. We realise that it may be impossible to give definite answers to these questions and that the King himself may be undecided but your own estimation of the probabilities would be valuable.

101

102

Copy to:- S/873/46.

(PW/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To :—* S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 13.4.48 (16.45) ~~Received~~

No. 224 of 13th April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.224 of 13th April.
Repeated for information to Washington No. 11 (Please pass to UKDEL as my No.5)
Baghdad No. 44 SAVING.
Beirut No. 50 SAVING.
Cairo No. 48 SAVING.
Damascus No. 44 SAVING.
Jeddah No. 44 SAVING.
B.M.E.O. No. 47 SAVING.
Jerusalem No. 60 SAVING.

SECRET.

PALESTINE.

Your telegram No.220 (of 10th April, 1948).

1. As far as I am aware the intentions of the Transjordan authorities with regard to the Arab areas of Palestine after the 15th of May are unchanged but the plans for their execution are still somewhat fluid.

2. Transjordan has never made any secret of these intentions in Arab League quarters and the proposed moves are described as constituting a temporary military occupation to protect the Arab areas. There is however nothing in the nature of an understanding on the subject.

3. There are an increasing number of indications that the presence of regular Arab troops would be welcomed by the Arabs of Palestine who are finding the various Arab partisan groups now in that country rather trying guests.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington and UKDEL New York as my telegrams Nos.11 and 5 respectively.

(ASK/HLM/HA).

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To :—* S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 13.4.48 (17.34) ~~Received~~

No. 225 of 13th April, 1948.

SECRET.

PALESTINE.

Following for Burrows. With reference to my telegram No.224 (of 13th April, 1948).

The following are additional details of the Transjordan intentions about Palestine which may be of interest to you.

2. The general idea seems to be to establish units of the Arab Legion at Hebron, Ramallah and Nablus as a first step and then to decide further moves in the light of events. It is realised that Jerusalem presents too big a problem for the Arab Legion to deal with alone and that Western Galilee is too remote with communications through a Jewish area.

3. The Gaza, Hebron and Ramallah areas appear to be in favour of this occupation and the notables there express their feelings openly. Nablus with the Army of Liberation at its gates is more cautious but has not shown opposition to the scheme. Jaffa, Lydda and Ramleh are terrorised by the Muftis followers who have threatened to murder anyone who has dealings with the Arab Legion. Beersheba, is terrorised by the Jews and would welcome any saviour.

4. The Palace and the Arab Legion maintain friendly contacts with Fauzi Kaoukji who appears to be manoeuvring so as to be sure of being on the predominating Arab side whichever it is.

Prior to his death Abdel Qader el Husseini was also on visiting terms with the Arab Legion but the attitude of his successor is unknown. Hassan Salameh is openly hostile.

5/...2

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To :—*

Despatched Received

No. of

5. It cannot be said that any understanding has been reached with the military committee of the Arab League but no secret has been made of the Transjordan intentions in talks with that body. Incidentally the degree of control exercised by this committee over operations in Palestine seems to be slight although it has the privilege of supplying the Arab partisans with money and equipment.

6. The Prime Minister of Transjordan is considering inviting the other Arab states to participate in any military move which is made after the 15th of May. He anticipates that in fact they could do little. Egypt and Iraq have already indicated that they cannot spare troops, Saudi Arabia and the Lebanon have no one to send and Syria has already sent a great deal of equipment to the Army of Liberation.

7. The present intention is to avoid a clash with the Jews but whether or not this will be possible remains to be seen.

(ASK/HLM/HA).

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

FILE NO.S/1014/48 **TELEGRAM.**

(103)

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— HighComa, JERUSALEM. *To :—* H.M. Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 14/4/48 (09.30) Received 14/4/48 (11.05)

No. 1016 of

SECRET.

Addressed to Secretary of State 973.

Repeated to UKDEL 1015 (Washington please pass)
Memin 7, Amman 1016, Damascus 1017.

Incursion(1) into Palestine.

Reliable information indicates that on the morning of March 26th a party of 300 - 400 armed Arabs reported to be T-Jordanians passed through NABLUS towards JENIN. They are said to have been equipped with artillery.

2. A report still unconfirmed(1) says a new contingent of the Arab liberation army entered Palestine in the last weeks of March and took up position in ACRE sub-district. The report puts its numbers as high as 1500.

(JS/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

13 Clear

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN

S/1014/48

104

Secretary of State

6/4/48 at 1300 hrs.

No.872 Immediate

Repeated Washington No.236. UKDEL No.911. Damascus No.912.

Saving: Menin (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C) Beirut. Amman. Jedda. Aden. British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT APRIL 5th

(1) Jews were still in occupation of QASTEL Village, Jerusalem District (see my telegram 858 paragraph (1)) and put up barbed wire defences. Sporadic firing took place throughout the day but no casualties have been reported. The number of Jews in QASTEL is estimated at 225.

(2) In early hours of the morning a large party of Jews attacked building previously used as Staff College, SARAFAND, Ramle sub-district. It is now reported to be headquarters of Arab gangs operating in the area. Buildings were extensively damaged by xxxxx explosives and Arab casualties are believed to be 16 killed and 12 wounded. Others may be buried under debris.

(3) During night April 4th/5th a British N.C.O. in El Alamein Camp JERUSALEM was shot and killed by a bullet during an exchange of fire between Qatamon and Mekor Haim.

(4) During afternoon of April 4th mortar and small arms fire was directed by Arabs at MISHMAR HA'EMEK Colony, Haifa District. Fire was also opened from 6 camouflaged armoured cars. Nine houses and the coly school were damaged. Firing also broke out yesterday. Following Jewish casualties have so far been reported: killed 4 wounded 4 seriously 2 slightly. Reports that Arabs used 25 pounders in the attack, and succeeded in occupying the colony, are not repeat not confirmed.

(5) In other incidents following casualties occurred:-

British	1 wounded
Arabs	2 killed 8 wounded
Jews	2 killed 6 wounded.

(Mr. Hone)

7/4

From: HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE. To: Secretary of State.

Despatch : 7.4.48 at 1800 hrs.

105

No.891 Immediate.

Repeated Washington No.239. UKDEL No.924. Damascus No.925.

Saving: MEMIN (pl. pass to Ambassador, C-in-C) Beirut. Amman. Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT APRIL 6th.

(1) Jews are still in occupation of QASTEL Village, but Arabs have taken and destroyed SUB' Quarries nearby which Jews had occupied. There was sporadic firing at Qastel during the day and Arabs are reported to have used mortars in attack on Jewish Colony of MOTZA which is in this area. Unconfirmed Arab reported stated 15 Jewish bodies were lying in vicinity of Sub' Quarries. Military report Jaffa/Jerusalem road was blown up at three places near Qastel but road is still passable to traffic. Early this morning (April 7th) Jewish aircraft dropped bombs over Arabs surrounding Qastel.

(2) My telegram 874. Following is fuller account of attack on military camp at PARDESS HANNA. At 0700 hours yesterday an armoured Scout car with military markings followed by an armoured personnel carrier reported bearing police markings and a green 3 ton truck drove into Camp 80 on Pardess Hanna-Karkur road. Armed Jews jumped out of the vehicles held up sentry and forced him into the guard room where he and three other members of the guard were stood up against a wall, shot in the back and killed. At same time signals clerk nearby was held up and radio sets and wireless mast were destroyed by explosives. Jews then drove their vehicles into centre of Camp and took up strategic positions from which continuous fire was poured into surrounding building Under cover of this fire, which killed the O.C. and two British other ranks, and wounded 8 others, a party of Jews raided the three camp armouries. Jews eventually withdrew taking 62 rifles, 38 sten guns, 18 bren guns, 4 PLATS and a quantity of ammunition. Two half-tracked vehicles were also taken but one was abandoned near the Camp and has been recovered. Some of the Jews were dressed in police uniforms and others in army uniforms. All attackers escaped as far as is known without casualties. Prior to the attack roads in the vicinity had been mined. Earlier report that 4 of the attackers hadbeen captured is not correct.

(3) During the afternoon in SAFAD area a British soldier was killed and another wounded when vehicle in which they were travelling was fired upon by Arabs.

(4) During morning of April 5th in HAIFA area military vehicles were fired upon by Arabs. A British officer and 2 British other ranks were wounded.

(5) In other incidents following casualties occurred:-

British	1 wounded.
Arabs	3 killed 13 wounded.
Jews	4 killed 1 wounded.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN
S/1074/48.

(Mr. Hone)
8.4.48.

12 Clear

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN

S/1014/48.

106

Secretary of State

8/4/48 at 1300 hrs.

No.902 Immediate

Repeated Washington No.241 UKMIL No.938 Damascus No.939

Saving: MEMIN (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C), Beirut. Amman. Jedda. Aden. British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT APRIL 7th

(1) According to an unconfirmed report members of Haganah occupied Arab villages of EMULDA and DEIR MUHEISIN in Ramle Sub-District. One Arab was killed in vicinity of the two villages.

(2) At MISHMAR HA'EMEK (see my telegram 872 paragraph (4)) a meeting was arranged between representatives from the Jewish Colony and local Arab leaders and it was agreed that truce should be enforced for 24 hours. Arabs have demanded (a) that Jews will not snipe at Arab road traffic (b) that Haganah will not carry out reprisal raids on Arab villages in vicinity of the colony. Jewish reply to (b) has been referred to Haganah Headquarters Haifa and further meeting is being arranged for today. Military are evacuating women and children from the colony.

(3) During night April 6th/7th small arms fire and explosions were heard from GANTEL area. Four Arabs were later admitted to hospital suffering from bullet wounds.

(4) Body of an unidentified male Jew has been found near military camp PARDESS HANNA (see my telegram 891 paragraph (2)).

(5) In other incidents following casualties occurred:-

Arabs	1	killed
	2	wounded
Jews	2	killed
	5	wounded

(Mr. Hone)

8/4

P.T. 28.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

№

Received from C. No. of words 175

by

Prefix Original No. 49 A Service Instructions BGOVT

Handed in at JERUSALEM Date 9 at 1495 m. Received here at m.

33641—350 Pads.—10.2.47—G.C.P.

To. PRODROME AMMAN

SECRETARY OF STATE NO 911 IMMEDIATE REPEATED WASHINGTON 242 UKDEL 946 DAMASCUS 947 BEIRUT 948 AMMAN 949 JEDDA 950 MEMIN 41 (PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR C IN C) SAVING ADEN BRITISH CONSUL ALEPPO

DURING YESTERDAY AFTERNOON INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED FROM ARAB SOURCES THAT ARABS HAD RETAKEN QASTEL VILLAGE AT 1545 HOURS A LARGE CROWD OF ARABS CELEBRATED THE VICTORY AT JAFFA GATE IN JERUSALEM IT APPEARS THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF ARABS CARRIED OUT THE ASSAULT UNDER SUPPORTING FIRE OF 8 ARMOURED CARS UNCONFIRMED REPEAT UNCONFIRMED REPORTS STATE THAT 3 ~~XXXXX~~ BRITISH PERSONS TOOK PART IN THE ATTACK ARAB SOURCES STATE THAT THEIR CASUALTIES WERE 6 KILLED AND 15 WOUNDED AND THAT HEAVY CASUALTIES INCLUDING 50 DEAD WERE INFLICTED ON JEWS A PARTY OF ROYAL ENGINEERS RETURNING TO JERUSALEM ALONG JERUSALEM / JAFFA ROAD MET A PARTY OF 30 JEWS MOST OF WHOM WERE WOUNDED THESE ADMITTED THEY HAD BEEN DRIVEN OUT OF QASTEL~~XXXX~~ DURING THE EVENING ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED THAT ABDUL KADER HUSSEINI WHO LED THE ATTACK HAD BEEN KILLED

HIGHCOMA

From

P.S

12 Clear

BRITISH LIBRARY AMMAN

S/1014/48

108

Secretary of State

9/4/48 at 1530 hrs.

No.919 Immediate

Repeated: Washington No.245. UKDEL No.953. Damascus No.954.

Saving: MEMIN (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C).
Beirut. Amman. Jedda. Aden. British Consul Aleppo

INCIDENT REPORT APRIL 8th.

(1) Recapture of QASTEL by Arabs has been separately reported.

(2) Spasmodic firing broke out during the day in TIBERIAS. Casualties were Jews 2 killed 6 wounded Arabs 2 killed (including one member of Arab Legion) 3 wounded. Unidentified 1 killed.

(3) During night April 7th/8th Jews attacked BEIT IKSA village, Jerusalem District, killing one Arab girl. It is reported that Arabs returned the fire, killing two Jews and ~~xxxxx~~ capturing a Bren gun, four rifles and a Jewish truck. This is an ~~xxxxx~~ unconfirmed report.

(4) On morning of April 7th information was received that Jewish Colony of LAHAVAT HABASHAN in Galilee District was being attacked. A military party endeavoured to reach the Colony but was held up owing to condition of roads. This party was fired on both by Jews and Arabs and one B.O.R. was slightly wounded. It is reported that one Jew was killed and 4 wounded during attack on the Colony.

(5) Casualties in other incidents were:-

Arabs 4 killed
11 wounded

Jews 4 killed
4 wounded

(Mr. Done)

10/4

12 Clear

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN

S/1074/48

109

Secretary of State

8.

10/4/48 at 1300 hrs.

No.928 Immediate

Repeated Washington No.246. UKDEL No.961. Damascus No.962.

Saving MEMIF (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C) Beirut. Amman. Jedda. Aden. British Consul Aleppo.

IN LIGHT RELEASE APRIL 9th.

(1) Following a heavy Jewish mortar bombardment Arabs evacuated QASTEL and Jews recaptured the village. Jews believed to be blowing up the houses during the night. Large forces of Arabs equipped with armoured cars, field guns and military type transport gathered in the area during the evening. Unidentified planes believed Jewish dropped bombs in areas of ABU GOSH and SRAR, near Qastel. One of these damaged wireless mast at Nebi Samwil Police Station. Arab sources claim that up to time of reoccupation of Qastel casualties were Jews 74 killed Arabs 9 killed 16 wounded.

(2) Approximately 200 Jews attacked DEIR YASSIN Arab village Jerusalem District. At the same time eight armoured vehicles drove into the village and laid explosive charges which destroyed five houses. The situation is confused but yesterday evening it was reported that part of the village was still occupied by Arabs, that both sides had suffered casualties and that 20 Arab women and children were held prisoners by Jews. According to later reports Jews had taken entire village, and the 20 Arab prisoners had been brought to Jerusalem and released. At a press conference to foreign (mostly American) correspondents it was stated that this was an I.Z.L.-Stern operation carried out XXXXXX with knowledge of Haganah.

(3) Intermittent firing occurred at MI EMAR HA'EMEK. The truce was broken by Arabs due, it was stated, to an attack by Jews on SHEMIYA EL BATIA when 2 Arabs were killed.

(4) In other incidents XXXXX casualties were:

Arabs 8 wounded

Jews 4 killed
2 wounded.

(Mr. Hone)

12/4

CS 725/2

110

12. Clear.

Secretary of State.

Shortlist.

11.4.48. at 1300 hrs.

No. 941 repeated to Washington No. 250, Rome No. 300, Damascus No. 361 saving: ROUTINE please pass to Ambassador, Cairo, Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

IMPORTANT REPORT April 10th.

(1) JAFFA is now reported to be in Arab hands. Area was quiet during night April 10th/11th.

(2) During afternoon 2 military vehicles proceeding to Jerusalem passed a convoy of Jewish vehicles on the Jaffa road. Arabs who were laying heavy mortar fire on the convoy hit one of the military vehicles. Two British soldiers were killed and 4 slightly wounded.

(3) During evening loud explosions were heard from Arab shelling of Jewish quarters of MEA SHEARIM, HAR NOFTSIERIM and GIVAT SHAUL, near Jerusalem. One Jew was killed

(4) During night April 9th/10th armed Arabs entered Lydda railway station, held up the staff, and stole oranges and bran valued at £.250.

(5) During the day 11 Arabs from DEIR YASSIN area were admitted to hospitals in Jerusalem, suffering from shrapnel and bullet wounds.

(6) During evening of April 6th in GAZA District a military truck was blown up by a mine. An exchange of fire then took place between British soldiers and unknown persons, in course of which one soldier was killed. Arabs in the area deny responsibility for the attack and state that the mines had been laid by Jews.

(7) In other incidents yesterday following casualties occurred:-

Arabs	2 killed 6 wounded
Jews	1 killed 4 wounded.

(Mr. Bone) 12/4/48

8.

GS.J25/2.

112

Clear.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN

E/1014/48.
15

Secretary of State.

To

1300 hrs. 12.4.48.

No.948. IMMEDIATE.

Repeated Washington 253 UKDEL 986, Damascus 987, Beirut 988.

Saving: MEMIN 42 (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C) Amman, Jedda, Aden, British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT REPORT APRIL 11th.

(1) During the afternoon firing broke out between Arabs and Jews in QATAMON area of Jerusalem. Four persons were wounded by Jewish sniping, including Assistant Lebanese Consul General.

(2) During the afternoon in REHOVOTH three British soldiers sitting in a café were attacked by four armed Jews. One British soldier was killed and three sten guns were stolen.

(3) During morning April 10th Arabs working on DEIR EL BALAH lands (Gaza District) were fired upon by Jews and 6 Arabs were wounded. Large party of Arabs later attacked Dier el Ballah Jewish settlement. Military intervened and firing ceased. No Jewish casualties have been reported but 11 Arabs were killed and 5 wounded. One attacker who penetrated perimeter wire of the settlement had been blown up by a mine. Investigations revealed that attack was carried out by Egyptians under an Egyptian officer.

(4) In other incidents following casualties occurred:-

Arabs 6 killed 8 wounded.

Jews 4 wounded.

(Mr. Hope).
13.4.48.

MESSAGE FORM

(113)

W/T Office Serial No. 478

Cipher Office Serial No.

Date 15/4

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 15 APR 1947 5/1014/45

To: Amman

TIME OF ORIGIN

TIME OF RECEIPT 0925

From: Cairo

Originators No.

Number of Groups 160

Special Instructions

SGJ9JCP

Indication of Priority

03414 ⊙ addrd to FO
No 459 of 14th April
repd for information to
Jerusalem, Baghdad, Beirut
Jedda, Damascus, and
Amman ⊙ Prest reports
that when receiving heads
of delegations to Arab
League political committee
meeting on 12th April,
KING FAROUK ordered chief
of royal cabinet to
read the following pronouncement ⊙ Begins ⊙ If Arab
armies enter Palestine
to save that country
his majesty would like
it to be clearly understood that this measure
must be regarded as
a temporary solution
devoid of any nature
of occupation or partition
of Palestine ⊙ after liberation
Palestine must be handed

Time of Enciphering or Deciphering

Cipher Clerks Initials

MESSAGE FORM

W/T Office Serial No. .....

Cipher Office Serial No. .....

Date .....

To:	TIME OF ORIGIN	TIME OF RECEIPT
From:	Originators No.	Number of Groups

Special Instructions

2

Indication of Priority

1	over	to its	own	people	4
2	who	will	elect	the	8
3	government	it	pleased	⊙	12
4	Ends	⊙ 2	⊙	Press	report 16
5	adds	that	his	majesty	20
6	then	said	"	this	is 24
7	my	opinion	"	and	28
8	that	heads	of	delegations	32
9	replied	that	it	was	36
10	the	wise	policy		40
11	and	that	they	would	44
12	adopt	it	⊙ 70	please	48
13	pass	to	Jerusalem	at	52
14	my	tel	43	Campbell.	56
15					60
16					64
17					68
18					72
19					76
20					80
21					84
22					88
23					92
24					96
25					100

Time of Enciphering or Deciphering	Cipher Clerks Initials

(S)9206m/GHQP/200,000/11-46

(10 20)

114

Received at Az

Date 15/4

وصلت مكتب

بتاريخ

وقت الوصول

الساعة h. الدقيقة m.

0 845

قبلها المأمور Bg

مصلحة البريد والبرق في شرق الاردن

يجب ارسال هذه النسخة مع كل استعلام بشأن هذه البرقية

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM

تعليمات مصلحية :

خاتم التاريخ

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN TELEGRAPH

الاشارة | المصدر Origin | الرقم الاصلي Original No. | الكلمات Words | اودعت بتاريخ Date | الدقيقة m. | الساعة h. | قبل الظهر a. m. بعد p. m.

Jerusalem

To. immediate Prodrome amman الى

addressed damascus 1031 repeated secretary of state 985 washington 260 ukdel 1033 Beirut 1035 amman 1037 Baghdad 35 menin 46 np an associated press report datelined damascus tuesday was published in today's palestine post stop it stated that

From the quote second arab army unquote

ب ه . ٤

Received at ..... وصلت مكتب	مصلحة البريد والبرق في شرق الاردن	خاتم التاريخ
D[illegible] ..... بتاريخ	يجب ارسال هذه النسخة مع كل استعلام بشأن هذه البرقية	
الساعة h. الدقيقة m. وقت الوصول	THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM	
قبلها المأمور	تعليمات مصلحية :	

الساعة h.	الدقيقة m.	اودعت بتاريخ Date	الكلمات Words	الرقم الاصلي Original No	المصدر Origin	الاشارة
a. m. قبل الظهر p. m. بعد						

To. الى

Consisting of 5000 uniformed Syrians Comma iragis Comma lebanese Comma egyptians Comma Transjordanians and palestinians moved out of Katāna en rout for palestine where Comma according to quote an official Syrian source unquote comma it would be organised for action in the Jerusalem sector stop it would operate

From

ب ه . ٤

Received at ..... وصلت مكتب	مصلحة البريد والبرق في شرق الاردن	خاتم التاريخ
D[illegible] ..... بتاريخ	يجب ارسال هذه النسخة مع كل استعلام بشأن هذه البرقية	
الساعة h. الدقيقة m. وقت الوصول	THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM	
قبلها المأمور	تعليمات مصلحية :	

الساعة h.	الدقيقة m.	اودعت بتاريخ Date	الكلمات Words	الرقم الاصلي Original No.	المصدر Origin	الاشارة
a. m. قبل الظهر p. m. بعد						

To. الى

immediately South of the Yarmouk army and Between it and a third Force expected to move into southern palestine from egypt. Stop please see my immediately following telegram ends

From ..... من Highcom a

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(115)

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To file

From :— High Commissioner, JERUSALEM *To* :— H.M. Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 14/4/48 (21.15) Received 15/4/48 (10.20)

No. 1038 of 14th April, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to Damascus 132.

Repeated to Secretary of State 986, Washington 261 UKDEL 1034, (Washington please pass) Beirut 1036, Amman 1038, Baghdad 36 Memin 47.

[? portion omitted].

2. ~~(? portion omitted)~~ Grateful for your(1) comments on the reliability of this report. If it is correct that such a force is on the point of entering Palestine I hope the strongest representations will be made to the Governments of the Arab States concerned against this serious addition to the extremely grave problems connected with our evacuation from Palestine.

(HIM/PW/HA).

(2) Repetition asked for.

15/4/48

(1) Bk ll/ P.O. check pl:
15/4. / If no change cypl: off.
4. / ask repeat between address & grafque fwd.

X Sent by 1032

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

116

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS.

To :—H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 15/4/48 (12.15) Received 15/4/48 (12.25)

No. 36 of 14th April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office(1) 188.

Repeated to Beirut, Cairo, Baghdad, Amman, Memin, Jerusalem, Jedda, UKDEL New York and Washington.

CONFIDENTIAL.

77

My telegram No.1(1)68(1).

Infiltration of volunteers into Palestine.

The local Press carries what purports to be the contents of a memorandum sent to me by the Syrian(1) Government in reply to the representations recorded in my telegram under reference. The contents of this memorandum bears a general resemblance to what the Minister for Foreign Affairs has said to me on more than(1) one occasion. In fact no such memorandum(1) has been sent and from enquiries made at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs it appears that none is in preparation(1).

Foreign Office please pass to UKDEL New York, Washington and Jerusalem as my telegrams Nos.12, 9 and 63 respectively.

Cairo please pass to B.M.E.O. as my telegram No.72.

(HLM/JFS/HA).

W30/57. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

To :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 16.4.48 (17.27)

~~Received~~

No. 227 of 16th April, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.227 of 16th April.

Repeated for information to	Jerusalem	No. 28
	Baghdad	No. 45 SAVING.
	Beirut	No. 51 SAVING.
	Cairo	No. 49 SAVING.
	Damascus	No. 45 SAVING.
	Jeddah	No. 45 SAVING.
	B.M.E.O.	No. 48 SAVING.

SECRET.

PALESTINE.

My telegram No.224 (of 13th April, 1948).

1. Arab Legion sources of information report a general collapse of Arab morale in Palestine extending to the Army of Liberation whose commander is stating that his position is critical and that he needs more troops urgently. This collapse may or may not be temporary but it is typical of the temperamental changes of the inhabitants of the Middle East. It may well be that the report referred to in Jerusalem's telegram to Damascus No.1031 (of 14th April, 1948) about reinforcements is an attempt to re-establish confidence as there is no information here to indicate that the "Second Arab Army" exists.

2. At this juncture King Abdullah sent a telegraphic message to the Political Committee of the Arab League sitting at Cairo offering to undertake the rescue of Palestine (no date mentioned) with the Arab Legion. As a result Ismail Safwat arrived in Amman yesterday bearing a letter from Azzam to the King accepting the King's offer with gratitude and asking him to co-ordinate details with the bearer of the letter.

3/...2

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To :—*

Despatched Received

No. of

3. Wyndam correspondent of the Sunday Times arrived here yesterday from Damascus and told Glubb that he had spoken to Azzam about the situation. Azzam had said that it had been evident for some time that Fauzi Kaoukji was no good and that the Arab states were unable to supply sufficient resources to the partisans in Palestine to enable them to defeat the Jews. In the circumstances Azzam felt that there was no alternative to letting Transjordan do the job on condition that Palestine must be taken over as a whole and remain an Arab State. There must be no acceptance by Transjordan of partition.

4. Following the Deir Yasseen massacre King Abdullah received a telegram from the Jewish Agency denouncing the I.Z.L. for having acted as they did and disclaiming responsibility. They went on to say that as hostilities appeared to be inevitable they hoped that the Arabs would agree to abide by the terms of the Hague Convention regarding the conduct of war.

The Royal Diwan replied in non commital terms saying that the Jewish Agency could not divest itself of responsibility for what happened in Palestine.

5. I will see the King to-morrow and I will probably be able to express some opinion on these events. In the meanwhile I will not delay reporting them.

ASK/HLM/HA.

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

O.T.P.

To Per { Hyam / 1st Sec / 2nd Sec

(119)

JEDDA.

FOREIGN OFFICE.

12.30hrs. 5/4/48

136 April 5th 1948. (76)

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.136 of the 5th April repeated SAVING to Amman No.11, Bagdad No.16, Beirut No.18, Cairo No.10, Damascus No.18, B.M.E.O. No.14, U.K. Del No.3,
~~New York No.3~~ Washington No.5 and Jerusalem No.3.

Your telegram No.431 to Cairo: PALESTINE.

In the absence in Riyadh of Shaikh Yusuf Yasin I have addressed a first person Note on the lines indicated to the Amir Faisal in Mecca. In view of the King's undertaking, which I believe to have been respected, to do nothing which might embarrass us in Palestine, I have avoided all implication that any bands may have left Saudi Arabia for Palestine, and phrased it as a request to the King to use his influence to persuade others to respect Palestinian territory.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 16 5/APR/48.

JEDDA

12 Clear

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN
S/1014/48

120

Secretary of State

14/5/48 at 1300 hrs.

To
Pa

No.964 Immediate

Repeated Washington No.259. [illegible] No.1028. Damascus No.1029.

Saving: MEMIS (please pass to Ambassador, C-in-C), Beirut.
Amman. Jedda. Aden. British Consul Aleppo.

INCIDENT AREA OF JERUSALEM 12th and 13th.

(1) During morning 12th two Arab Legion trucks passing KFAR SHALOM were shot up by Jews. 2 soldiers were wounded and one truck had to be abandoned. Military went to scene and found 10 Jewish armoured vehicles engaging Arab Legion; fire was also being directed at them from a Jewish plane. Army engaged the Jews and one Jewish vehicle was set on fire.

(2) During morning 12th Arab vehicles were fired upon by Jews from MEVO TA'ANIK, Jerusalem District. Security forces went to scene and rescued four wounded Arabs and the two vehicles.

(3) During morning 12th military and police escorts were heavily fired upon by Arabs on LATRUN-LAPID road. Vehicles were compelled to return to Jerusalem.

(4) During morning 12th 20 armed Jews attacked NAHALAT ITZHAK village, Tiberias. Heavy fighting took place and majority of villagers were forced to leave. Arab casualties were 9 killed 5 wounded.

(5) There was further fighting at MEVO TA'ANIK.

(6) During morning 13th a ten vehicle Jewish convoy was attacked by Arabs in SHEIKH JARRAH quarter of Jerusalem. One of leading vehicles was blown up by a speed mine and intensive small arms fire was directed at rest of convoy. Three vehicles had to be abandoned and remainder returned to Jerusalem. Security forces went to scene and found Arab and Jewish quarters in vicinity engaged in a battle. Security forces intervened and during shooting one B.A. was killed and two B.A. were wounded. A Deputy Superintendent of police was seriously wounded. 7 Jews were rescued from abandoned convoy vehicles. Area was quiet by 1630 hours. Following casualty figures have been received:-

Jews 34 killed 21 seriously wounded 7 slightly wounded
Arabs 4 killed 6 seriously wounded 9 slightly wounded

(7) In Lydda airport yesterday a light aircraft belonging to AVIRON Company (Jewish) was destroyed by fire in a hangar. Arson is suspected.

(8) During afternoon 13th a police armoured car was stopped at a Jewish road block near ZIKHRON, Lydda District. Jews surrounded the vehicle and forced the crew to dismount. The car itself, a Bren gun, two revolvers, ammunition and documents were stolen. There were no casualties.

(9) During morning 13th Jews attacked LAFFUN Arab village, Jenin sub district. Arab reinforcements arrived and drove off the Jews. During the engagement a light aircraft was seen circling over the area. Reported casualties were: 1 Jew killed
4 Arabs killed
12 wounded

(10) During night 12th/13th a British soldier at [illegible] Police station deserted from his post in circumstances which suggest he has joined Arab forces.

(11) In other incidents following casualties occurred:-

Arabs	1	killed
	8	wounded
Jews	3	killed
	12	wounded

(Mr. Lone)

15/4

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

121

~~Cypher~~

~~Code~~

Clear

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To* :—High Commissioner,JERUSALEM.

Despatched 15/4/48 (12.15) ~~Received~~

No. 27 of 15th April, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

115

Your telegram No.132 to Damascus repeated to Amman No.1038.

Please check and repeat from address to paragraph 2.

(MH/HA).

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

122

Government of Palestine.

In replying to this letter please quote the date and reference number.

C/231/44

Chief Secretary's Office,
Jerusalem.

S/1014/48.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN

14 April, 1948.

To 1st Sec.
2nd Sec.

Dear Chancery,

54

With reference to your letter No. (S/1014/48) dated 30th March, regarding import licences for consignments of food from Transjordan, I should like to tell you that the matter is under consideration.

Yours ever,

JERUSALEM SECRETARIAT.

British Legation
Amman.

BF 23/4/48

(123)

No. 937 TOP SECRET. IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to S. of S. top secret immediate. Repeated to Washington No. 248 Top Secret (please pass to UNDEL as my No. 970.

TOP SECRET SAVING (please pass to Ambassador. (Baghdad and MIDEL) (Beirut (Damascus (Jedda (Amman (Malta. (for C-in-C MED).

(97)

18 5/10/48

My telegram No. 855; weekly intelligence appreciation.

There is little indication as yet of the response of either community to the Security Council's call for a truce. To my appeal for an immediate " cease fire" the Jews have replied that if the Arabs cease fire first they will also do so, another provision being freedom of movement on all roads. I have not yet received the official reply from the Arabs. Action is continuing. Local impression is that the Arabs will accept a truce if partition is explicitly abandoned and provided safeguards are assured that the Jews will not be able to improve their military position relative to the Arabs. Jews are waiting on the outcome of the discussions in the General Zionist Council session now in progress in Tel Aviv. The delegates in their turn are reported to be awaiting more definite information of the intentions of the Security Council, and in particular of the U.S., and to be anxious to avoid committing themselves to any course which might seem to suggest that the Jews were unable, if necessary to enforce partition unaided.

2. Probably in order to demonstrate that they were not cowed by their political reverses or by the unfortunate outcome of the Kfar Etzion adventure, the Haganah has been particularly aggressive during the week. On 3rd. April a strong force occupied the Arab village of Castel, a strategic point on the Jerusalem-Jaffa Road. Fairly intensive local fighting developed as a result of this operation, during which the Jews used light aircraft both to supply their forces and to bomb Arab positions. On Thursday afternoon the Arabs succeeded in reoccupying the village. Abdul Qadr Husseini was killed leading the final assault and several of his lieutenents are reported to have been wounded. The extent of Jewish casualties is not yet known. The Jews subsequently reentered the village on 9th. April and also seized part of the village of Deir Yassin. The latter operation is believed to have been a joint I.Z.L.-- Stern Group enterprise undertaken with knowledge of the Haganah. Arab casualties are believed to have been heavy. The dissidents have stated that the seizure of Deir Yassin is the first step to realizing the Greater Jewish State on the whole of Palestine and Trans-Jordan.

4. The Arabs have been on the offensive in the North. A sustained attack on Mishmar Hamek, which Fawzi Kawakji is said to have commanded in person, was an ignominious fiasco. Confused fighting has been in progress intermittently through the week in the Huleh. Haifa has however been quieter; the Arabs are said to be reorganizing. On the Jaffa-Tel Aviv border the situation remains unchanged. There has been considerable firing in Jerusalem but neither side has made gains. The Gaza district has had a relatively uneventful week; there are rumours of an Egyptian concentration at Rafah under Aziz el Masri. Samaria has been quiet, but elements of its Liberation Army apparently participated in the

/Mishmar

Mishmar Haemek engagement. Further large scale infiltrations of foreign trained irregulars are reported from Samaria and Galilee but lack confirmation.

5. The future of the Arab command in Jerusalem and central Palestine following the death of Abdul Qader Husseini and the reported withdrawal in disgrace of Hassan Salameh is for the present uncertain. It is probable however, that the Mufti will endeavour to secure the succession for other of his nominees though no obvious candidate suggests himself. On the other hand an attempt may be made to seize the opportunity to unify the Palestine command under the Liberation Army.

6 Support for King Abdullah is reported to be growing particularly in the rural areas. An contributory factor has been the posting of Arab Legion detachments to the larger Arab towns. King Abdullah is rumoured to have reached an understanding with Fawzi Kawakji for concerted action after 15th. May.

7. Besides the Jewish attitude to the trusteeship and truce proposals the G.A.C. has on its agenda the Haganah - H.A.O. agreement, the establishment of a Jewish Govt. and the cooption of additional members to the Jewish Agency Executive. Right-wing pressure for the proclamation of a Jewish govt. immediately it becomes clear that the U.N. has abandoned partition is said to be strong. The position regarding the Haganah- ..... agreement is not clear. One Jewish Agency official has declared that both parties have signed and that the Jewish Agency has ratified it. From another Jewish Agency source it is understood that Ben Gurion and others are still standing out against an agreement. There is however little doubt that the Agency and the Haganah have abandoned any attempt to eradicate the dissidents, while in Jerusalem at least the two organisations appear to be working side by side on parallel lines. The position is probably the same in Tel Aviv and Haifa and no doubt in other Jewish urban centres where the dissidents have a sizeable following and where Jewish defences are largely dependent on the H.A.O's man-power.

8. The murderous attack on 6th. April on the military camp at Pardess Hanna in which an officer and five B.C.R.s were killed has been acknowledged as the work of the S.L.C. The military authorities have in consequence closed a section of the Haifa-Tel Aviv road to motor traffic.

9. The week has brought into prominence the progressive worsening of the food-supply of Jewish Jerusalem owing to Arab attacks on transport using the Jerusalem-Jaffa road. The situation has been sharply aggravated by the heavy losses of Jewish armoured vehicles in the Kfar Etzion engagement. Now that the Yishuv temporarily lacks the means to force its way through the Arab blockade the blame for the resultant situation is being placed on Government, despite the fact that Government's advice as to the proper measures to be taken for the maintenance of communications on this route has been consistently disregarded. The Arabs for their part would possibly agree to permit Jewish food convoys to pass unmolested provided they were enabled to ensure that these convoys were not a means of bringing reinforcements of men or munitions to the Jews of Jerusalem. A Jewish Agency spokesman has ruled out in advance any solution on these lines. The situation is being carefully watched. The position is however less grave than M. Shertok makes out. The Jewish Agency emphasized locally that there is no immediate danger of starvation, and it may be that a good deal of the shortage arises from hoarding and the stringent controls imposed by the Jewish community and the Haganah. Nevertheless the Jews of Jerusalem seem likely to suffer considerable privations after 15th. May unless a truce is accepted, being dependent for food, water and fuel (and thus light) on communications particularly vulnerable to Arab attack. The Orthodox Jews are especially bitter, asserting that they have been denied their fair share of food in favour of the Haganah and other Agency favourites.

10. The maintenance of centralized Government authority becomes increasingly difficult with the progressive severance of telephone communications. Road traffic is becoming more and more hazardous and car owners are reluctant to travel owing to the epidemic of vehicle robberies and thefts by both Arabs and Jews. In some cases these thefts are requisitions by the para-military forces of both sides and in others ordinary crime.

11. A politically-motivated attack on Government for its treatment of the Jewish detainees in Athlit developed during the week. The detainees had been becoming more and more truculent for some time, finally assaulting a British warder. When the camp was searched a number of pistols, bombe and uniforms were found, which had apparently been introduced into the camp in the false bottoms of food boxes supplied by the officially-recognized Jewish Prisoners Aid Society. In consequence visitors and food parcels have been stopped. The press carried reports of assaults on the detainees, but in fact no greater degree of force was used than was needed to overcome opposition to the search. Reports of desecration of the synagogue were also proved untrue. The situation in Athlit is steadily improving as the number of prisoners and detainees is reduced by releases, as the military authorities has increasing assistance and as the number of British staff to replace Palestinians (who are now quite unreliable) grows. Pressure for the return of the Kenya deportees before 15 May continues unabated.

Code, Cypher or Clear? 6 I.T.

TELEGRAM

C.S.O. 67.

From

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE

To S. of S.

Despatched 13.4.48 0800.

GPP. 28281—15,000—8.8.47

No. 956. Secret. Immediate.

Repeated to H.M.A. WASHINGTON No. 255 (Washington please pass to UKDEL No. 996)
Repeated Damascus No. 997, Beirut No. 998 Amman No. 999 Jedda No. 30. Memin No. 44. (please pass to Ambassador and C - in- C)

My tel. 933 repeated to Washington 247 UKDEL 966 DEIR YASSIN.

It has not yet been possible to ascertain actual details of this attack but indications are that the figures of Arab casualties given by Jews and quoted in my tel. are not far off the truth. It has not yet been possible to enter DEIR YASSIN and Jewish Police officer sent yesterday to investigate was not allowed by Haganah to proceed beyond GIVAT SHAUL.

2. A representative of the International Red Cross who visited DEIR YASSIN on Sunday is said to have stated that in one cave he saw the heaped bodies of some 150. Arabs men, women and children, whilst in a well a further 50 bodies were found. Arabs allegations of Jewish atrocities such as the lining up and shooting with automatic weapons of unarmed men, women and children now seem to contain some truth. Jewish Agency has claimed that attack was organized and perpetrated by members of dissident groups and has issued the usual notices of condemnation which however deceive nobody, especially as dissidents themselves claim that Haganah let them pass through to the attack.

3. Arab reaction to this deliberate mass murder of innocent inhabitants, including women and children, of an Arab village which, by Jewish admission, has taken little part in the disturbances is naturally extremely bitter; nor have the British escaped sharp criticism for their failure immediately to intervene or to punish the criminals.

4. I should make it clear that the military authorities are not repeat not in a position to take action in the matter owing to their falling strength and increasing commitments. I am however discussing the possibility of punitive air action with the A.O.C. in C.

5. You may feel that the facts (in so far as they are known) of this crime which is far the worst to which the present communal clashes have so far given rise should be brought particularly to the notice of the Security. Council.

ENDS.
13.448
NP

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

To :—S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 17.4.48 (13.14) ~~Received~~

No. 230 of 17th April, 1948.

SECRET.

PALESTINE.

My telegrams Nos.227 and 231.

Following for Burrows.

1. The developments reported in my messages under reference seem to be favourable to the aims of the Transjordan authorities regarding Palestine but there is still a month to go before the mandate terminates and Transjordan becomes free to take the initiative without coming into conflict with our own authority.

2. A lot could happen during a month which would make the situation less favourable specially as the ability of the British authorities in Palestine to influence events seems to be declining rapidly. Is there any possible means whereby the period to lapse before the termination of the mandate could be shortened.

(ASK/CJB/HA).

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Cleas~~

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

To :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 17.4.48 (17.02) **Received**

No. 231 of 17th April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.231 of 17th April.

Repeated for information to Baghdad No. 46 SAVING.
Beirut No. 52 SAVING.
Cairo No. 50 SAVING.
Damascus No. 46 SAVING.
Jeddah No. 46 SAVING.
B.M.E.O. No. 49 SAVING.
Jerusalem No. 61 SAVING.

SECRET.

PALESTINE.

My telegram No.227 (of 16th April, 1948).

1. I have talked to King Abdullah about the latest development and he showed me Azzam's letter. Little emerged during his talk with Ismail Safwat who has now gone to Damascus.

It was evident, however, that Safwat talked first as though the Arab Legion were to be placed under his control while King Abdullah made it clear that he expected the Army of Liberation to be placed under Transjordan command.

King Abdullah also made the point that the Arab Legion would not gain freedom of action in Palestine before the 15th of May.

2. Safwat asked the King if there would be any objection to a Brigade of the Iraq Army being brought to Transjordan in readiness for operations after the 15th of May.

The King replied that he would agree providing the brigade came under Transjordan command.

3. The Arab League appears to have found it necessary to modify its attitude on the subject of the intentions of Transjordan regarding Palestine but the letter from Azzam is so worded that it does not

constitute/...P.T.O.

constitute an unqualified approval of those intentions and Azzam's idea is doubtless to try and use the Arab Legion under the control of the League. On the other hand, if the Arab Legion occupy parts of Palestine after the 15th of May it will no longer be possible in view of the letter to accuse them of having done so in defiance of the League.

(ASK/GTL/RA).

128

His Excellency Rais of the Royal Hashemite Diwan replies to the Jewish Agency's telegram holding the Agency responsible for the consequences of the Deir Yassin crime.

The Jewish Agency in Jerusalem has sent to His Majesty King Abdullah, King of the Transjordan Hashimite Kingdom a telegram washing its hands of the Deir Yassin incident expressing disapproval of the barbarous atrocities committed therein and placing the responsibility therefor on the shoulders of dissident Jewish organisations. His Excellency Rais of the Royal Diwan has sent the following reply to the Jewish Agency :-

" The Jewish Agency is the guardian over all Zionist activities in and outside Palestine. It represents the Jews and speaks on their behalf. It is not expected that any Jew goes on to do anything which contradicts the Agency's policy and regulations. The Irgune and other organisations should take into consideration the results of the barbaric atrocities they have committed and should also consider the bad consequences which will derive therefrom.

(AL JIHAD NO. 15 of the 17.4.48)

PA

19.4.48

MESSAGE FORM

(127)

W/T Office Serial No. 488

Cipher Office Serial No.

Date 17/4

To: Amman. (07.30)

From: London.

TIME OF ORIGIN 1445

TIME OF RECEIPT

Originators No. 18

Number of Groups 40

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 5/10/4/48

Special Instructions

Indication of Priority Immediate

1	22617 Addsd to BMEO CAIRO	4
2	Tel No 306 of April 17th	8
3	Amman, Baghdad, Beirut	12
4	Jedda and Damascus ⊙	16
5	Please in future mark	20
6	for repetition to United	24
7	Kingdom Delegation New	28
8	York all telegrams of	32
9	interest to them in present	36
10	Palestinian discussions ⊙	40
11		44
12	Bevin.	48
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24		96
25		100

Time of Enciphering or Deciphering

Cipher Clerks Initials

(S)9206m/GHQP/200,000/11-46

Received at 17/4 وصلت مكتب

Date متاريخ

الساعة 0805 الدقيقة m. وقت الوصول

قبلها المأمور

مصلحة البريد والبرق في شرق الاردن

يجب ارسال هذه النسخة مع كل استعلام بشأن هذه البرقية

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM

تعليمات مصلحية :

خاتم التاريخ

الساعة h.	الدقيقة m.	اودعت بتاريخ Date	الكلمات Words	الرقم الاصلي Original No.	المصدر Origin
18 00	16	22	31		Jerusalem

a. m. قبل الظهر

p. m. بعد

To. Immediate Prodrome Amman

UNNUMBERED Your telegram 27 ple read text of my telegram 10 to you as paragraph one of m

HighCom

From

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48. **TELEGRAM.**

130

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON. *To* :—H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 17/4/48 (16.50) **Received** 18/4/48 (17.30)

No. 225 **of** 16th April, 1948.

SECRET.

(101)

Addressed to Jedda telegram No.186 of April 16th.

Repeated for information Amman and Saving Washington, U.K.Del: New York, Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, Cairo, British Middle East Office and Jerusalem.

Amman telegram No.224.

If the Transjordan Government send troops into part of Palestine after May 15th do you think Ibn Saud would take violent action against Transjordan or Iraq and if so what form do you think such action would be likely to take.

(CJB/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— High Commissioner, JERUSALEM *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 18/4/48 (09.42) Received 18/4/48 (10.20)

No. 1067 of

IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to Secretary of State 1025.
SECRET.

Repeated to MEMIN 51 (Please pass to Ambassador) Amman 1067, Damascus 1068 and Saving to Beirut and Jedda.

Amman telegram No.227 to Foreign Office repeated to me as 28.

Arab Legion.

The Arab Legion in Palestine are being used for protection of lines of communication through wholly Arab but disturbed areas. Unless they continue to be used for this purpose our withdrawal will be seriously predjudiced. The General Officer Commanding proposes to release them a few days before the end of the mandate.

2. Assume that the above is clear to all concerned and that no offensive action by the Arab Legion in Palestine before the end of the Mandate could be countenanced.

Copy to:- S/873/46.

(CJB/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48. **TELEGRAM.**

(132)

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To See 1st Sec. 2nd Sec.

From :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON. *To :—* H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 18/4/48 (11.00) **Received** 18/4/48 (13.00)

No. 228 **of** 17th April, 1948.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Damascus telegram No.180 April 17th.

Repeated for information to Washington, UKDEL New York, Beirut, Amman, Baghdad(1) and B.M.E.O.

114 115

Jerusalem telegrams Nos.131 and 132 to you.

If there is any substance in the report quoted by High Commissioner please take the matter up urgently with the Syrian Government. His Majesty's Representatives at other Arab posts will be [interested - Sic] to make similar representations as soon as we have your ASSESSMENT of the accuracy of the report.

(JFS/HLM/HA).

Should be 1031 & 1032

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

COPY NO...

O.T.A. 932. 933.

133

XXXXXX

XXXX

Clear Telegram Out.

From: BEIRUT

To: FOREIGN OFFICE

No. 284 of April 16th. 1948.

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 19 5/10/1/48

Repeated to Jerusalem No. 43.
U.K. Del., New York. No. 10.
B.M.E.O. No. 82.
SAVING to Cairo No. 24.
" Jedda No. 19.
" Bagdad No. 20.
" Damascus No. 39.
" Amman No. 21.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 284 of April 16th.
Repeated for information to Jerusalem, U.K. Delegation, New York, B.M.E.O. and Saving to Cairo, Jedda, Bagdad, Damascus and Amman.

Palestine.

Orderly demonstration took place in Beirut to-day in protest against Deir Yassin atrocities. President of the Republic and President of Chamber addressed crowd. Commercial establishments in centre of town were closed. No incidents have been reported.

DISTRIBUTION:

1. Chancery.
2. B.M.M.
3. Library.
4-8. Saving copies.

BRITISH LEGATION BEIRUT

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

134

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— Memin, CAIRO.

To :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 16/4/48 (18.00) Received 16/4/48 (19.45)

No. 24 of 15th April, 1948.

SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.(TW) 124 of April 15th. Repeated for(1) information Jerusalem, Washington, Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Jedda and Damascus.

My telegram No.122 repeated to Jerusalem(1) Damascus and Washington.

AZZAM in the course of conversation said that in his opinion the only way of avoiding chaos and the continuance of civil war in Palestine was for Great Britain to continue to exercise the Mandate providing partition was not revived and immigration discontinued(.)(2) He could see no object in substituting trusteeship for the mandate or any other authority for Great Britain. We had an Administration in being and 30 years experience behind us.

2. Moreover he said that the trusteeship as proposed by America to continue until both Jews and Arab agreed on a solution would mean allowing the Jewish minority to obstruct indefinitely a democratic solution.

3. Speaking of a truce Azzam said that the Arabs wished to be constructive and to(1) go further than the American proposal. He had been discussing with the Arab leaders here a scheme on the following lines. On the Jewish side there should be the stoppage of immigrants the disbandment and disarmament of HAGANAH and other armed forces. These steps would be matched on the Arab side by a stoppage of infiltration, repatriation of volunteers now in Palestine and the disarmament of local Arabs.

4. I am not clear whether these ideas have yet been fully accepted by all the Arab leaders here but this may be the line which the Arabs will take at United Nations. Azzam emphasised that the Arabs were not ~~insp~~ inspired by the fear of failure(1). + ~~On the contrary they were confident of ultimate victory without delay demanding their views decided by the force of enough but they were anxious to avoid retaliation.~~

+ All after "on the contrary" asked for. (See 135)

57. D1350. 55M. (3 parts). 10/45.

(PW/HIM/HA).

F.O.Please pass immediate to Jerusalem and Washington as my telegrams 28 and 23.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

135

~~Cypher~~

~~Code~~

Clear

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To* :— B.M.E.O., CAIRO.

Despatched 19/4/48 (13.02) ~~Received~~

No. 25 of 19th April, 1948.

134

Your telegram No.124 to Foreign Office paragraph 4.

Please repeat from "on the contrary" to the end of telegram.

153

(HLM/HA).

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts, 4/47.

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/CTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS.

To :—H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 17/4/48 (11.20) Received 17/4/48 (11.30)

No. 37 of 16th April, 1948.

SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office 189.

Repeated for the information of Jerusalem, Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Cairo, B.M.E.O. Washington and UKDEL New York.

Jerusalem telegrams Nos.1031 and 132(Sic)(1) to me.

The background of the Associated Press story is that the correspondent returned to Damascus at the beginning of this week after about a fortnights absence and found QATANA camp was more or less empty: before he left he had estimated that there(1) were(1) about 5,000 there. I cannot say how reliable this correspondent is but from other sources I gather that this emptying of the camp may have been taking place up to about ten days ago. There is therefore quite a good possibility that the men whatever numbers there are may be no longer in Syria.

2. If I am now to make(1) further representations to the Syrian(1) Government I would like to know first what was the result of the action taken by H.M.Representatives at Cairo, Baghdad and Jedda and the possibility of any action of the Middle East Office on the lines of your telegram No.431 to Cairo. I feel I should also add that DEIR YASIN massacre has now reduced the possibility of our getting any satisfaction out of the Syrian Government to almost nil.

(LONDON ONLY) Foreign Office please pass Important to Jerusalem as my telegram 65 and to Washington and UKDEL as my telegrams 10 and 13 respectively.

(Cairo only) Please pass to MEMIN as my telegram 73).

(HIM/JFS/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister,AMMAN. *To* :—S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 19/4/48 (12.15) ~~Received~~

No. 232 of 19th April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.232 of 19th April.
Repeated for information to UKDEL New York No. 6
Baghdad No. 47 SAVING.
Beirut No. 53 SAVING.
Cairo No. 51 SAVING.
Damascus No. 47 SAVING.
Jeddah No. 47 SAVING.
B.M.E.O. No. 50 SAVING.
Jerusalem No. 62 SAVING.

SECRET.

PALESTINE.

My telegram No.231 (of 17th April, 1948).

1. Transjordan Minister in Cairo now here on leave has given me some interesting information about the acceptance by the Political Committee of the Arab League of Transjordan's offer to rescue Palestine.

2. The initiative for acceptance came from Azzam whose first intention was to send a message to that effect without reference to the Committee. In the discussion by the Committee the Prime Minister of Syria and Haj Amin were opposed to acceptance but their opposition was overcome by the Egyptian Prime Minister who accused them of being prepared to sacrifice Palestine to their personal jealousies.

3. During an informal talk on the Syrian proposal regarding the conclusion of treaties by Arab States the Egyptian Prime Minister insisted that each state must be free to make treaties which dealt with its own particular problems and he would not permit any other state to play any part in conduct of the international relations of Egypt. He added that he for one did not doubt the honesty of purpose of Arab States which had concluded treaties with Great Powers recently. (This last remark is rather unexpected from that quarter).

Copy to:- 429/Sec.
(ASK/HLM/HA).

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

(W/T).

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

138

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To See HMM 12 Nov 2 Mar

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To :—* S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 20.4.48 (18.10) ~~Received~~

No. 233 of 20th April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.233 of 20th April.

Repeated for information to UKDEL New York No. 7
Baghdad No. 33
Beirut No. 19
Cairo No. 38
Damascus No. 22
Jeddah No. 15
B.M.E.O. No. 26
Jerusalem No. 29

136

SECRET.

Arab Volunteers in Palestine.

Damascus' telegram No.189 (of 16th April, 1948) to you.

When in Amman recently Ismail Safwat told King Abdullah that the total number of trained Arab partisans under arms in Palestine was about three thousand. This figure excludes local armed bands of Palestinians.

There have been movements of late of detachments of volunteers going back to Syria.

(ASK/HLM/HA).

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

139

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

TO 1st Sec. 2nd Sec.

From :— Campbell, CAIRO. *To :—* H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 18/4/48 (18.00) Received 19/4/48 (06.00)

No. 35 of 17th April, 1948.

CONFIDENTIAL. LIGHT.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.478 of April 17th.

Repeated for information UKDEL New York, Washington, Jerusalem, Baghdad, Beirut, Amman, Damascus(1) Jedda.

PALESTINE.

AZZAM Pasha called this morning to communicate orally the decision reached by the Arab League political committee which he had already convey(1)ed to the American Ambassador in the same manner. He said that the political committee had decided that the most favourable solution of the Palestine question would be for Great Britain to continue the mandate for the time being to prepare for the establishment of the independent Palestine State provided Jewish immigration ceased meanwhile and that there would be no question of partition. They felt that they could not propose this themselves but would come out in support if the United States took the initiative The committee had argued that whatever their differences with us on some points we had experience in administration and they categorically rejected the idea of trusteeship on the lines proposed by the United States.

2. Azzam went on to say that the alternative to this was civil war in which the Arabs were fully confident of ultimate success though it might take some years. It would be a war of ATTRITION since the man power reserves upon which the Arab side could draw were inexhaustible. Except for the coast over(1) which the Arabs had no control a cordon SANITAIRE could be placed around Palestine to localise the conflict and prevent a general conflagration in the Middle East. As regards the Holy Places he had no doubt that an agreement could be made with the Jews for their safety since they were not strategic points.

3/...2

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To :—*

Despatched Received

No. of

3. In a conversation with CLAYTON on April 16th Azzam had stated that as an alternative to the temporary extension of the mandate itself the Arabs would accept an arrangement but if not(1) Great Britain and United States perhaps with(1) the aid of one or more Arab (gp.undec. ? states intended) might assume control with a view to working out a solution(1) for an independent state. He did not(1) prepound this alternative in his talk with me though he did mention(1) that if Great Britain were unwilling to continue provisionally as the (Mandatory - Sic) the Arabs would be ready to consider some other solution ensuring the conditions outlined in paragraph 4 below.

4. As regards the proposal for a truce the political committee Azzam said were quite prepared to accept a truce as a preliminary to a permanent cessation of hostilities(1). This would(1) involve definite abandonment of partition and even then the following conditions would be(1) necessary

(a) All immigration of Jews to cease in return for which the Arabs would cease any further infiltration from(1) outside Palestine.

(b) That the Jews without Palestinian nationality were removed in which case the Arabs were prepared to remove all Arab bands already in Palestine.

(c) That both sides disarm and that adequate precautions for inspection of the disarmament were taken. The whole object of the Arabs was to end the present slaughter if it could be done without conceding a Jewish State.

5. The Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs (? cyphering error ? advanced intended) similar ideas about an extension of the Mandate and about a truce in a recent conversation with me. On the question of the former(1), I scouted the idea of our consenting to continue the mandate and also POURED cold water on the idea of our undertaking

a/...3

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To :—*

Despatched Received

No. of

a disarming and demobilisation of the Jews(1) and the Arabs since the British public and His Majesty's Government had had enough of seeing our own men killed while we received no help but only brick - BATS.

6. Mr.Troutbeck was present at my interview with Azzam.

Foreign Office repeat UKDEL New York, Jerusalem Washington as my telegrams 4, 46 and 13 respectively.

(HIM/PW/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— High Commissioner, JERUSALEM *To :—* H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 19/4/48 (20.10) Received 20/4/48 (10.15)

No. 1086 of 19th April, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador Cairo 65 (please pass to Memin as my No.52)

Repeated to Beirut No.1084, Damascus 1085, Amman 1086, Secretary of State 1048, Washington 274 (please pass to UKDEL as my 1087).

Arab infiltration into Palestine.

According to press reports date lined Cairo Sunday a large scale Arab offensive in North(1) Palestine by a force of volunteers including Egyptians LIBYANS and other North Africans will be launched within a few days. The proposed operation is said to be under the command of General Abdul WAHED SOLIMAN(1) SUBEL PASHA and the immediate objective will be the capture of 36 Jewish settlements in the area. The Arab(1) League had reportedly decided not(1) repeat not to call off the offensive not withstanding the Security Council truce.

2. I am(1) unable to GAUGE the reliability of this report but if there is anything in it I must ask(1) that the strongest possible representations be made to call off the attack which could not fail to have very grave consequence on the situation in Palestine and the progress of the British withdrawal. It is not for me to draw attention (? gp.omitted ? to) the wider consequences which might flow from such a development following the Security Council call for a truce and at a (? gp.omitted ? time) when the direction of the United Nation special Assembly is discussing the Palestine problem.

(JFS/HA).

W30657. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To :—*

Despatched Received

No. of

3. In a conversation with CLAYTON on April 16th Azzam had stated that as an alternative to the temporary extension of the mandate itself the Arabs would accept an arrangement but if not(1) Great Britain and United States perhaps with(1) the aid of one or more Arab (gp.undec. ? states intended) might assume control with a view to working out a solution(1) for an independent state. He did not(1) prepound this alternative in his talk with me though he did mention(1) that if Great Britain were unwilling to continue provisionally as the (Mandatory - Sic) the Arabs would be ready to consider some other solution ensuring the conditions outlined in paragraph 4 below.

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(b) That the Jews without Palestinian nationality were removed in which case the Arabs were prepared to remove all Arab bands already in Palestine.

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a/...3

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sets). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1054/48. ~~S/1054/48~~

TELEGRAM.

141

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON. *To :—* H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 20/4/48 (17.42) Received 21/4/48 (06.30)

No. 231 of 20th April, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.
SECRET.

Addressed to Amman telegram No.231 of April 20th.

Repeated for information to Jerusalem and B(1)M.E.O.

Cable and Wireless Ltd. Jerusalem have been warned by the authorities that the safety of their staff can no longer be guaranteed and have been advised to evacuate to Transjordan. The army is prepared to transport the staff and their mobile transmitter if requested before May 1st to do so.

2. We are in favour of this move which should also commend itself to the Transjordan Government. Present communications with Amman pass through Jerusalem and are likely to be cut. The proposed evacuation would provide wireless telegraph Y link with the entire cable and wireless system via Cyprus or the United Kingdom.

3. If you see no objection please approach the Transjordan authorities with the request for permission to be granted for temporary establishment of the transmitter on Transjordan territory.

4. Grateful for early reply.

Copy to:- S/1014/48.

(JFS/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(142)

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, ~~AMMAN~~ DAMASCUS.

To :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 20/4/48 (18.20) Received 21/4/48 (06.30)

No. 38 of 20th April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office No.198.

Repeated to Jerusalem, UKDEL New York, Amman, Beirut, Baghdad, Cairo, Jedda and Memin.

SECRET.

The Syrian Acting(1) Minister for Foreign Affairs told a(1) member of my staff last night that the Council of Ministers had been discussing the reports that there were a number of non-Jewish(1) Russians fighting in Palestine. The reports were view(1)ed so seriously that no action was being taken until confirmation had been received.

London only. Foreign Office please pass to JERUSALEM and UKDEL as my telegrams 69 and 15 RESPECTIVELY.

(CAIRO ONLY) Please pass to B.M.E.O. as my telegram 77.

(JFS/PW/HA).

(149)

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(143)

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To per

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To :—* S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 21.4.48 (17.25) ~~Received~~

No. 234 of 21st April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.234 of 21st April.
Repeated for information to UKDEL New York No. 8
Baghdad No. 48 SAVING.
Beirut No. 54 SAVING.
Cairo No. 52 SAVING.
Damascus No. 48 SAVING.
Jeddah No. 48 SAVING.
B.M.E.O. No. 51 SAVING.
Jerusalem No. 63 SAVING.

SECRET.

PALESTINE.

1. The expulsion of the Arab population from Tiberias following the Deir Yasseen incident together with the growing realisation that neither the British forces or the Arab partisans in Palestine can protect the Arab population from the Jewish forces is resulting in a growing volume of pressure from both inside and outside Palestine for the immediate intervention of the Arab Legion to contain the Jews.

2. I am using the two best arguments available against this pressure namely the continued existence of a British mandate even if impotent and the fact that the military units of the Arab Legion are too small to afford any dispersal but if there are any further incidents such as those under reference it will be difficult to keep the matter under control. Arabs do not readily listen to reason when they are in the frenzy of indignation and apprehension which is being created by present events.

(ASK/HIM/HA).

W49909. D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

144

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

To :— S.OF S. F.O. DONDON.

Despatched 21.4.48 (18.00) ~~Received~~

No. 237 of 21st April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.237 of 21st April.
Repeated for information to UKDEL New York No. 9
Baghdad No. 51 SAVING.
Beirut No. 57 SAVING.
Cairo No. 55 SAVING.
Damascus No. 51 SAVING.
Jeddah No. 51 SAVING.
B.M.E.O. No. 54 SAVING.
Jerusalem No. 66 SAVING.

126

SECRET.

PALESTINE.

My telegram No.231 (of 17th April, 1948).

1. King Abdullah's reply to the Secretary General of the Arab League on the subject of the intervention of the Arab Legion in Palestine makes the following points :-

(a) all Arab forces now in Palestine and any reinforcements including Iraqis must come under Transjordan command.

(b) the Arab Legion will not be able to act independantly before the 15th of May

(c) the number of trained Arab partisans now in Palestine is only about 3000 and the Palestinian levies are untrained, disorganised and short of equipment.

(d) the Arab Legion cannot be dispersed in order to protect Arab villages as this action would leave the Arabs without a striking force to cope with an enemy offensive to be expected after the 15th of May

(e) the premature action and failure of the Arab partisans has raised Jewish morale

(f) the advance of the Arab Legion to Palestine will be made in the belief that Iraqi army reinforcements will be sent to Transjordan

(g) some air support must be provided by the members of the Arab League as the Arab Legion has no aircraft

(h) the Arab League must share responsibility with Transjordan for action in Palestine and must act jointly in dealing with any international reactions in the future.

(ASK/JS/HA).

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

145

COPY OF TRANSLATION

Sunday the 11th April, 1948.

His Excellency,
Rais of the Royal Diwan,
AMMAN.

Sir,

I have the honour to request that this letter be submitted to His Majesty the King.

I am compelled to submit this owing to the disturbed position now prevailing in Palestine, most particularly so with my belief that you consider Transjordan and Palestine to be one country connected up by the ties of fraternity, language, religion and habits.

At the present grave juncture of this sacred struggle the eyes of the Palestinian Arabs are turned to sister Transjordan with the question "When will Transjordan start to act for the rescue of Palestine in a manner which will lead us to the aim of the struggle ?" Here I must admit with pride and gratitude those works accomplished by some of the military units of the Transjordan army, The question here is when will the Arab Transjordan forces enter the decissive battle throughout the country". We are sure the Arab Legion has the means and the men capable of crushing the enemy.

Certain people have already given the answer to the above question. The answer caused unease and disappointment to many people in Palestine. It says that the Arab Legion will enter Palestine immediately after the withdrawal of the British i.e. on the 16th of May, 1948, and will occupy the Arab section of the country leaving the Jewish section to the Jews .....

Notwithstanding the fact that well informed quarters consider this is an unfounded allegation nevertheless there are many who believe in it or at least harbour big doubts about it particularly so because Transjordan has never declared frankly its opposition to partition and did not go beyond the promise to assist the Arabs of Palestine out of their affliction.

The practical solution in my opinion is that Transjordan should declare at once its policy regarding Palestine and follow that by sending its strong Army to free the country from alien terrorists, when the position will elucidate and God will afford us victory.

Another/...2

Another important point is that it has been observed that a big number of Russians are fighting with the Jewish gangs. This was ascertained from identification of the people killed in the fighting. The pressure exerted recently by the Jews and their besiege of the Arabs are attributed to the arrival of large Russian troops under the name of illegal emigrants.

In view of the foregoing the Arab people in Palestine consider that if Transjordan intends really to get Palestine out of its crisis it must at once send its army to the battle field regardless of what allegations may be made by a confined minority in Palestine. The first and foremost task now is the rescue of Palestine from the Jews and all other problems will be discussed at another date. The present juncture is very agreeable and the atmosphere in Palestine is prepared to admit the Arab Legion despite all other wishes. The Jews are now pressing their attack on the Arab villages. They commit atrocities against Arab children and women. If the Arab Legion is not to come presently then its arrival at a later date will be at double the present cost. Before the Arab Legion arrival in Palestine a decisive statement must be made by the Hashimite Kingdom to the effect that the Arab Legion is entering Palestine for the purpose of taking part with Arab forces now in the country and with the Arabs of Palestine in rebuking Jewish terrorism and realising the independence of Palestine. This is the way to take the hoodwink of doubt away from the hearts of certain people, and then will materialise with God's help the hopes maintained both in Palestine and in Transjordan.

Therefore, hasten to the rescue of this poor country and God will afford success.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) A ~~Painful~~ Suffering Palestinian.

146

حضرة صاحب الجلالة الملك عبد الله المعظم

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته . وبعد فقد اخبرني معالي فوزى الملقي باشا برسالة جلالتكم امس . وقد عرضت الأمر على اللجنة السياسية للجامعة العربية ، مع علمي بأستعداد جلالتكم لأنقاذ فلسطين بكل وسيلة ، فقررت اللجنة في اجتماعها بتاريخ اليوم ، شكر جلالتكم على همتكم العالية وحميتكم العربية ، وان توفد اليكم القائد العام ـ سعادة اسماعيل صفوت باشا ـ للتفاهم مع جلالتكم على اجراء ما يلزم لأنقاذ العرب المحاصرين ومنع وقوع مذابح مشابهة لما حصل في قرية دير ياسين وغيرها . وقد رأت اللجنة بالأجماع ان وجود الجيش الأردني داخل فلسطين يمكّنه من القيام بهذا الواجب الجليل بالسرعة اللازمة .

لذلك تناشد اللجنة السياسية جلالتكم التفضل بالأذن للجيش العربي الأردني بالقيام بهذا الواجب .

واني اغتنم هذه الفرصة لرفع شكر اللجنة الى مقام جلالتكم على ما ابديتم من حمية مشكورة واستعداد كريم . والله يرعاكم بعنايته وتوفيقه .

القاهرة في ٦ جماد آخر ١٣٦٧
١٥ أبريل ١٩٤٨

الأمين العام لجامعة
الدول العربية
عبد الرحمن عزام

طبق الأصل

Translate & Ref.

RESTRICTED

BRITISH LEGATION,

AMMAN.

147

DESPATCH NO. 23.
(S/1014/48).

22nd April, 1948.

To
Mr 1st
2nd

117

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my telegram No.227 of the 16th of April, 1948, on the subject of events in Palestine and to transmit herewith a translation of the letter which was addressed to King Abdullah by the Secretary General of the Arab League and which is referred to in paragraph 2 of my telegram under reference.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect, Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

(S.) A. S. KIRKBRIDE

The Right Honourable Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
The Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

ASK/HA.

147A

COPY OF TRANSLATION

His Most Excellent Majesty King Abdullah.

Regards and best compliments.

His Excellency Fauzi Pasha al Mulqi has informed me yesterday about Your Majesty's message. Being well aware of Your Majesty's preparedness to rescue Palestine in any way, I referred the matter to the Political Committee of the Arab League. The Committee has decided, at its meeting to-day, to thank Your Majesty for your magnanimity and Arab Zeal. It was also decided to delegate General Officer Commanding Ismail Safwat Pasha - to discuss with Your Majesty the necessary measures to be taken to liberate the besieged Arabs and to prevent more massacres taking place as happened at Deir Yassin village and other localities. The committee are of a unanimous opinion that the presence in Palestine of the Arab Legion makes it possible for the Legion to accomplish this important task with the required haste.

The Political Committee adjures Your Majesty to allow please the Transjordan Arab Legion to do this duty.

I avail myself ~~m~~ of this opportunity of presenting the committee's thanks to Your Majesty for the well appreciated magnanimity and generous preparedness you have shown. May God watch you with His Care and give you success.

(Sgd.) Abdel Rahman Azzam
Secretary General
to the Arab League.

Cairo 15th April, 1948.

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :—High Commissioner, JERUSALEM *To* :—H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 20/4/48 (20.07) Received 21/4/48 (10.10)

No. 1105 of 20th April, 1948.

SECRET.

Addressed to Secretary of State 1062.

Repeated to Amman 1105, Damascus 1106, Cairo 69 (Please pass B.M.E.O.) Baghdad 20, Jedda 33, Beirut 1107. - Begins.

Foreign Office telegram to Amman No.220 (Your 1375 to me) and Amman telegram to Foreign Office No.224;(1) King Abdullah and Palestine.

A good Arabic source states that on April 18th FAUZI MULKI brought King Abdullah a letter from the political committee of the Arab League stating that the present military position of the Arabs in Palestine was most serious and asking King Abdullah to take any(1) military measures necessary to secure the realisation of the exact aims.

2. Shortly after receiving this letter the source states that King Abdullah arranged for the Iraqi Minister at Amman to go to Baghdad with a request that one Iraqi division with full equipment and aircraft comes to Transjordan "In accordance with the Iraq-Transjordan (1) Treaty".

3. The source states that King Abdullah affirmed that he had decided on military intervention in Palestine with the entire Arab Legion immediately after May 15th. The 1st objectives would be firmly to secure Haifa, Jaffa and Gaza. He intended to approach the General Officer Commanding so as to ensure that there could be no clash with British troops.

4. He went on to(1) say that he was instructing the liberation army and Palestine(1) irregulars to confine themselves to attacking Jewish communications(1). All serious fighting would be done by the Arab Legion. The Iraq division would be used to protect the Legion's rear (presumably against Syrian and Saudi Arabia).

5/...2

W30657. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To :—*

Despatched Received

No. of

5. Fauzi el (Mulki)(2) is also reported to have(1) informed King Abdullah(1) of the sharp exchange between NOKRASHI and(1) the MUFTI(1), who objected to the phraseology of(1) the appeal to King Abdullah with the implication that the latter was to have a free hand in Palestine. Nokrashi is said to have refused any longer(1) (to)(2) regard the Mufti as representing the views of the Palestine Arabs.

6. His Majesty's Minister at Amman will doubtless confirm(1) or comment.

(JS/HLM/PW/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To see

149

From :— H.M.Minister, ~~AMMAN~~ DAMASCUS.

To :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 21/4/48 (18.30) Received 22/4/48 (06.45)

No. 39 of 20th April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office No.202.

Repeated to Amman, Jerusalem, Baghdad, Beirut, Memin, Jedda, Cairo and UKDEL New York.

SECRET.

The Syrian(1) Minister of National Defence told a member of my staff to-day that he had just received a telegram from KAWAKJI stating that the Russian non Jews were assisting HAGANA in the area between(1) TULKAREM(1) and KALIKLE near NATHANIEH and that in the combat area there were 10 twin engined bomber aircraft of American type.

2. Asked for further details the Minister of Defence said that he had asked for a full report and would(1) pass on any further details which he received. He clearly connected the Russians with the Aeroplanes said to be in(1) Palestine and with the press reports (? of omitted) unidentified aircraft held in Rhodes. (G/7128/48)

(LONDON ONLY) Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem and UKDEL as my telegrams 71 and 16 respectively.

(CAIRO ONLY) Please pass to B.M.E.O. my telegram 78.

(HLM/HA).

pp.142.

W30/57. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON. *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 21/4/48 (12.30) Received 21/4/48 (12.50)

No. 230 of 19th April, 1948.

IMPORTANT.
CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to UKDEL New York telegram No.1598 of April 19th as well as(1) to Cairo, B.M.E.O., Baghdad, Amman, Beirut, Damascus, Jedda.
Repeated for information Washington.

My despatch No.57.

Directive for General Officer Commanding Palestine.

The text will be laid in the libraries of the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday April 21st at 12 noon B.S.T.

2. I am instructing Sir A.Cadogan(1) to(1) communicate the text of the directive (but not repeat(1) not the administrative instruction) to the United Nations Commission at the same time. The document will then cease to be confidential and you may use it freely in answering any relevant enquiries(1) from the Government to which you are accredited.

(JFS/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To :—* S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 22.4.48 (18.22) ~~Received~~

No. 240 of 22nd April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.240 of 22nd April.

Repeated to	Baghdad	No. 52 SAVING.
	Beirut	No. 58 SAVING.
	Cairo	No. 56 SAVING.
	Damascus	No. 52 SAVING.
	Jeddah	No. 52 SAVING.
	B.M.E.O.	No. 55 SAVING.
	Jerusalem	No. 67 SAVING.

SECRET.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem's telegram No.1062 (of 20th April, 1948) appears to consist of a precis, with slight variations in detail of the information contained in my telegrams Nos.224, 227, 231, 232 and 237.

(ASK/HLM/HA).

W49909, D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(152)

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— High Commissioner, JERUSALEM *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 21/4/48 (11.14) Received 22/4/48 (10.25)

No. 1114 of 21-4-1948.

SECRET.

Addressed to Damascus 1113.

Repeated to Secretary of State 1069, Amman 1114, Memin Cairo 54.

Reliable report received here that Colonel BOER who is Chief of Staff to Mahmoud el HINDI left RAMALLAH for Damascus on April 18th to bring two batteries of heavy guns (described by Boer(1) himself as 25-pounders) to the Jerusalem command, and to arrange for the despatch for - Sic Damascus of a number of heavy armoured cars.

2. If this report is indeed true I should be grateful if you could take whatever steps are possible to prevent this or other heavy equipment being sent.

(HLM/PW/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

153

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— Memin, CAIRO

To :—H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 21/4/48 (18.10) Received 22/4/48 (06.?)

No. 27 of 21st April, 1948.

135

Following is repetition asked for in your telegram No.25

Begins.

On the contrary they were confident of ultimate victory (, cyphered from ID) should the issue have to be decided by force. But they(TW) were anxious to avoid (? gp.omitted ? this) as far as possible.

Annexed see 134

(HLM/PW/HA).

Cl bl 22/4. / accordingly

Annexe Memin file 24.

W30/57. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

MESSAGE FORM

(154)

W/T Office Serial No. 505

Cipher Office Serial No. (Ba 30)

Date 22/4

To: P. R. Baghdad

TIME OF ORIGIN 1740

TIME OF RECEIPT

Originators No. 5/1074/XF

Number of Groups 08

From: HM

Special Instructions

Indication of Priority

Important

1	05222,	Released to	go at		4
2	no 433	of 22nd April,	repeated		8
3	for information to	BAGHDAD	and		12
4	AMMAN.	Regent has arranged to			16
5	leave for AMMAN on the 24th				20
6	April to visit	KING ABDULLAH.			24
7	He will be accompanied by				28
8	ministers of defence and finance.				32
9	2. During HRH's absence				36
10	regency council will act for				40
11	him, consisting of the PRESIDENT				44
12	of THE CHAMBERS of DEPUTIES,				48
13	TAHA HADRAWI and MUHAMMAD				52
14	HASSAN KUBBA.				56
15					60
16					64
17					68
18					72
19					76
20					80
21					84
22					88
23					92
24					96
25					100

(163)

Time of Enciphering or Deciphering

Cipher Clerks Initials

(S)9206m/GHQP/200,000/11-46

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1054/48.

TELEGRAM.

155

Cypher

Code

Clear

From:— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To:—* S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 23"4/48 (16.40) Received

No. 241 of 23rd April, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.241 of 23rd April.

Repeated for information to B.M.E.O. No. 28

Jerusalem No. 30

SECRET.

141

Your telegram No.231 (of 20th April, 1948).

The Transjordan Government would welcome the presence of a Cable and Wireless Mobile Unit in Amman and request that the Unit should establish itself here as soon as possible.

Copy to:- S/1014/48.

(CB/PG/HEM/HA).

Wt. 27078. D1749. 75m in 3 sorts 10/47.

158A

فخامة السير ألن كنغهام المندوب السامي لفلسطين القدس الشريف

عليّ ان اعبر لفخامتكم عن الشعور العربي في شرق الأردن وما ورائه بعد حوادث ديرياسين وناصرالدين وطبريا ثم حيفا بأن الرأى العام هنا اصبح في حالة غضب واستياء لا يقف امامهما الا احقاق الحق . ارجو لفت نظر حكومة جلالته ونظركم الى مركز القدس الشريف والناصرة وبيت لحم في عيون نصارى العرب ومسلميهم وان الأمانة يجب ان تودع الى ايدينا عند انتهاء مدة الأنتداب وان لا يفعل اليهود بالمدينة المقدسة وبيافا ما فعلوه بغيرها حتى الآن مع نصحي للجهات اليهودية بأن لا يتسببوا بغلوهم الى ما يضر رغبتهم في الأستيطان في فلسطين تحت اسم الوطن القومي . فاذا اوقفوا التعديات وقبلوا المفاوضات على ان تكون لهم حقوق المواطنين في الدولة الفلسطينية وان لا تكون اية سيادة تنازع العرب في وطنهم عزتهم فيكونون قد عملوا الى خيرهم والى السلام العام في هذه الأقطار ، وبرقيتي هذه تعبر عن كل فلسطيني في فلسطين وشرق الأردن وعن كل اردني يحمل عزة القوم ونخوة الرجولة وانني اقرر هذا وآمل ان اقتطف ثمرة نياتي الحسنة لأنقاذ البشرية المعذبة في الأراضي المقدسة لغايات سياسية تدفع لأضرام الشر الذى سوف لا يقتصر على هذه البقعة المقدسة .

Embodied in f. 159.

156

عبد الله بن الحسين

BRITISH LEGATION
17 APR 1948
S/1014/48
AMMAN

عمان فى ١٤ جمادى الآخرة ١٣٦٧

الموافق ٢٣ نيسان ١٩٤٨

عزيزى سير ألك كركبرايد

ان حوادث فلسطين المتتاليه المفجعه اضطرتني الى ان أبعث بالبرقية المرسل صورتها طي هذا الكتاب الى دولتكم آملا ان تحل محل الأعتبار لدى فخامته وان يبعث بما جاء فيها الى حكومة جلالته كما انني ارغب الى دولتكم ابلاغ هذه البرقية الى وزارة الخارجية بلندن .

COPY OF TRANSLATION

156

Date: 23/4/1948.

Dear Sir Alec Kirkbride,

Under the succession of painful events in Palestine, I have had to address a telegram, copy of which is enclosed, to His Excellency the High Commissioner trusting the same will receive his due consideration and contents thereof will be conveyed to His Majesty's Government.

Will you please also convey substance of the telegram to the Foreign Office, LONDON.

Yours sincerely,

ABDULLAH.

158

159

PP 143

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To See Mr Stewart, Mr Bevin, Sir Alec Cadogan

157

From:— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To:—* S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 23/4/48 (17.00) ~~Received~~

No. 242 of 23rd April, 1948.

IMPORTANT.
Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.242 of 23rd April.

Repeated to	UKDEL New York	No. 10
	Baghdad	No. 53 SAVING.
	Beirut	No. 59 SAVING.
	Cairo	No. 57 SAVING.
	Damascus	No. 53 SAVING.
	Jeddah	No. 53 SAVING.
	B.M.E.O.	No. 56 SAVING.
	Jerusalem	No. 68 SAVING.

CONFIDENTIAL.
PALESTINE.

144

My telegram No.237 (of 21st April, 1948).

1. Following a statement to the press by King Abdullah to the effect that the only solution to the Palestine problem was an Arab state which included areas over which the Jews exercised local autonomy, the Jewish Agency sent the King a telegram in Arabic to the effect that the future of Palestine could not be decided by unilateral decisions or threats but by negotiations in regard to which the Jews were prepared to listen to any proposals which responsible Arab quarters had to make.

117

2. The wording of this message was more abrupt than the earlier communication to the King from the Jewish Agency referred to in paragraph 4 of my telegram No.227 (of 16th April, 1948). The new message is a judicious mixture of menace and readiness to negotiate and calculated to exploit to the utmost the present depression of Arab morale about which the Jews must be aware.

(ASK/HIM/HA).

Wt. 27078. D1749. 75m In 3 sorts 10/47.

COPY OF TRANSLATION

Ref. No. 11/17

Date: 17/4/48.

STATEMENT by THE ROYAL HASHIMITE DIWAN
REGARDING THE POSITION IN PALESTINE.

The crisis in Palestine has reached the climax and the Hashimite Diwan has received many letters calling upon the Transjordan Hashimite Kingdom to execute the sacred duty in Palestine. Similarly all the Arab countries are pressing for a rejection of the partition plan, for declaring in a manner beyond interpretation the policy of the Transjordan Hashimite Kingdom, in view of the presence of Russian Officers with the Haganah and as the Arabs are rushing forth from the towns, villages and tents with solid determination and cheer readiness to die for Palestine, the Royal Diwan declares that Palestine and the Hashimite Kingdom are but one thing consisting of coast and inner parts besides the very many sanctuaries in Palestine, the history which is full with national toils and fatigues and besides the innocent bloods shed over the country's soil. Transjordan's policy at the Arab League and other political organisations elucidated that Transjordan has the same duty as that of the other Arab countries. It was elucidated as well that Transjordan opposes vigorously partition and trusteeship in defence of its own interests and for the preservance of national existence. Now as the aforesaid facts are true and right, Transjordan is in the Arab World and is an Arab country and its responsibility towards its own self is greater than that of any of its sister countries.

The time has narrowed for the removal of Mandate; the time has widened to the Zionists and the remaining month will witness certain activities which will hurt Palestine and those endeavouring to rescue it. This is what we are sure of. Therefore the Transjordan Hashimite Kingdom is aware of its own position and responsibility and is taking into consideration the time as well as the action. All appearances indicate that in view of the communist intervention it is a vanishing hope to expect to repel danger through the acceptance of truce, mediation or endeavours within the perimeter of possibility.

In view of the foregoing and for the purpose of quitening public opinion this statement is being made to push away all doubts. Likewise the Jewish Agency's telegram addressed to His Majesty The King says that as it is not possible to stop armed activity, therefore the Jews have decided to act in accordance with international warfare procedure, which means that the Agency is declaring war against the Arabs including Transjordan.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From:— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To:—* S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 23/4/48 (17.38) ~~Received~~

No. 243 of 23rd April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.243 of 23rd April.
Repeated for information to UKDEL New York No. 11
Jerusalem No. 31
Baghdad No. 54 SAVING.
Beirut No. 60 SAVING.
Cairo No. 58 SAVING.
Damascus No. 54 SAVING.
Jeddah No. 54 SAVING.
B.M.E.O. No. 57 SAVING.

CONFIDENTIAL.

PALESTINE.
My telegram No.234 (of 21st April, 1948).

1. My immediately following telegram gives the translation of a message sent in clear to the High Commissioner for Palestine by King Abdullah on current events in Palestine. I was asked by the King to communicate the message to you.

2. The Jewish forces appear to be on the offensive in northern Palestine and the latest news is that Samakh near the Syrian and Transjordan frontiers was attacked by Jews this morning. The failure of the British forces to react to any of these recent Jewish moves which amount to the expulsion of Arab population from Jewish areas will make it impossible shortly to maintain in any Arab country that the British mandate continues to exist in fact in Palestine.

3. The request of the King to be entrusted with the protection of the holy places after the termination of the mandate is unreasonable as he has not the forces to undertake the task but as I have said before there is little reason current here at present.

(ASK/CJB/HA).

Wt. 27078. D1749. 75m in 3 sorts 10/47.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

~~Cypher~~

~~Code~~

Clear

To Rec

159

From:— H.M.Minister, AMMAN. *To:*— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 23/4/48 (18.00) ~~Received~~

No. 244 of 23rd April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.244 of 23rd April.
Repeated for information to UKDEL New York No. 12
Baghdad No. 55 SAVING.
Beirut No. 61 SAVING.
Cairo No. 59 SAVING.
Damascus No. 55 SAVING.
Jeddah No. 55 SAVING.
B.M.E.O. No. 58 SAVING.
Jerusalem No. 69 SAVING.

158

PALESTINE.

My telegram No.243 (of 23rd April, 1948).

Following is the translation of the message under reference - Begins.

I feel I must express to Your Excellency the Arab feeling in and outside Transjordan. After what happened at Deir Yassin, Nasir Eddin, Tiberias and Haifa, public opinion here is so excited and disappointed that nothing can check it except the righting of affairs. I wish to invite the attention of His Majesty's Government and your own to the position of Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem in the eyes of Christian and Moslem Arabs, a fact which makes it necessary that these trusts be placed in our hands on the termination of the mandate. Attention is also drawn to the desirability that the Jews should abstain from committing in the Holy City and Jaffa what they have done elsewhere. Jewish quarters should be advised that their extravagance will cause great disadvantage to their desire to settle in Palestine under the name of a national home. If the Jews will stop aggression and accept negotiations with a view to attaining the right of being citizens in the Palestinian State and to admitting that Arab sovereignty in their homeland shall not be disputed or contended by any authorities, if they do this it will be in their own interest as well as in the interest of peace in these countries. This my cable is an interpretation of what every Palestinian and Transjordanian have in mind. It is moreover a true expression the feelings of every Transjordanian who possess magnanimity and manhood.

In/...P.T.O.

Wt. 27078. D1749. 75m in 3 sorts 10/47.

In describing the situation I only hope to reap the fruits of my good intentions with regard to the rescue of humanity suffering in the Holy Land for political motives which aim at kindling evil fires which shall not be confined to this holy spot - Ends.

(ASK/HA).

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From:— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

To:— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 24/4/48 (13.10) ~~Received~~

No. 246 of 24th April, 1948.

IMPORTANT.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.246 of 24th April.
Repeated for information to UKDEL New York No. 13
Baghdad No. 56 SAVING.
Beirut No. 62 SAVING.
Cairo No. 60 SAVING.
Damascus No. 56 SAVING.
Jeddah No. 56 SAVING.
B.M.E.O. No. 59 SAVING.
Jerusalem No. 70 SAVING.

CONFIDENTIAL.

PALESTINE.

My telegram No.242 (of 23rd April, 1948).

1. The Head of the Royal Diwan replied to the Jewish Agency's message to the effect that its text did not carry the matter any further as the only arrangement which the King could contemplate was an autonomous Jewish administration in an Arab State.

2. King Abdullah said to me in confidence this morning that in view of the publicity attending these exchanges this was as far as he could go. He did not expect the Jews to accept such terms but this purpose was to keep the door open for negotiations when both sides were in a more reasonable frame of mind.

(ASK/HIM/HA).

Wt. 27078. D1749. 75m In 3 sorts 10/47.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

161

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To see

From :— H.M.Ambassador, CAIRO. *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 23/4/48 (11.10) Received 23/4/48 (11.20)

No. 37 of 22nd April, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.
SECRET(1)

Addressed to(1) Foreign Office telegram No.494 of April 22nd. Repeated for information Jerusalem, UKDEL New York, Washington and all Arab posts.

The situation in Palestine.

I have just been visited by AZZAM Pasha who(1) read out to me a telegram received this evening by the Syrian Prime Minister(1) (now in Cairo(1)) from Syria, from the Syrian Consul at Haifa containing the message which an Arab delegation in Haifa headed by one ELIAS MUSA (1) had(1) asked to be sent to the Syrian Government. It stated that an Arab delegation had asked the British Commander in Haifa to intervene with British troops to stop the massacring of the Arab population including women and children by the Jews. He had refused to do so and also refused to allow Arab reinforcements to enter the city. He would take no steps to stop the massacre unless the Arabs would accept an armistice with(1) the HAGANA on conditions which he stipulated, the most important being that the Arabs should surrender their arms to the Jews(1). A meeting had been arranged between the Arab and Jewish representatives when the Arabs would have to give their reply. Meanwhile the situation was very critical and the(1) massacres were continuing.

2. Azzam said that this massacre was(1) he was convinced(1) part of a Jewish military plan designed to terrorise the Arab population inside the Jewish state so that by May 15th they would be relieved(1) of having to deal with any 5th column and be able to concentrate their whole energies on action against the regular Arab native troops which they believed would then enter Palestine(1) from outside.

3/...2

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS. *To* :—H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 22/4/48 (19.30) Received 23/4/48 (06.30)

No. 40 of 22nd April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office 203.

Repeated to Jerusalem, Baghdad(1) Beirut, Cairo, Jedda(1) Amman, Memin and UKDEL New York.

SECRET. LIGHT.

The President of the Republic sent for me urgently this morning and in the presence of the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and the (1) Minister of ~~[illegible]~~ War) read me two telegrams from the Syrian Consul at Haifa about the (assail - Sic ? assault intended) there. According to these telegrams a considerable battle is taking place(1) and the Jews are occupying(1) one Arab quarter after another. There are killed and wounded in the streets. The Jewish forces numbering about 2000 are said to have heavy arms. A massacre of innocents is feared and the Consul asked for the intervention of the British authorities to protect the Syrian community of some 200.

2. The President asked me if I had any news and I said I had not. He said the Egyptian(1) Consul at Haifa had sent similar(1)(telegram(2)) to Cairo through the Syrian Government so he felt sure it could not be exaggerated.

3. The President went(? on omitted) to say that while he appreciated that a few days ago we had helpfully intervened at TIBERIAS(gp.undec. ? AS intended), here at Haifa from which very port our troops were being evacuated(1) British Forces were apparently doing nothing. We had several times protested against the unjustifiable(1)infiltration of volunteers and in so doing had emphasised that we were responsible for law and order until May 15th. He went on to say that out of friendship for us(1) and in spite of all circumstances the Syrian army had taken no action. At this point I remarked that I sincerely trusted that no anti British(1) action would be taken now.

4/... 2

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To :—*

Despatched Received

No. of

4.(1) I told the President I would(1) immediately report what he had said and that I would see that he(1) received any(1) news that I might get. I hope that it might be(1) possible for me(1) to say something very soon(1) as there is obviously considerable alarm and fear as to what may happen when the news becomes public.

5. As I was leaving the President said that after May 15th we would see 500 Russian aeroplanes on Palestine air fields which would have flown direct from Yugo Slavia. There would no longer be any(1) question of Russia penetrating the Middle East via Persia.

(FOR LONDON ONLY) Please pass immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram 73 and to UKDEL as my telegram 17.

(CAIRO ONLY) Please pass to B.M.E.O. as my telegram 80.

(CJB/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(163)

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— (Mack) BAGHDAD.

To :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 23/4/48 (16.45). Received 23/4/48 (19.00)

No. 53 of 23rd April, 1948.

IMPORTANT.
CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.435 of April 23rd.

Repeated for the information of B.M.E.O. and Amman.

My telegram No.433. (154)

It seems highly probable that the main purpose(1) of the meeting(1) will be to discuss(1) Palestine.

2. I am seeing the Regent (who has been away for a couple of days) to-night and will be(1) [be - Sic] able to report further to-morrow.

(JS/HLM/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS. *To* :—H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 23/4/48 (17.20) Received 23/4/48 (19.00)

No. 43 of 23rd April, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.
Addressed Foreign Office 207.
Repeated to Jerusalem, Cairo, Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Memin, Jedda(1) and UKDEL New York.

SECRET. LIGHT.
PALESTINE.

I note from the third paragraph of Cairo telegram No.494 to you that AZZAM Pasha was much more outspoken about the military intentions of the Arab States than was(1) the Syrian president to me(1) (3rd paragraph of my telegram No.203).

2. This morning the press carries statements attributed to local official circles to the effect that regular Arab troops are being concentrated on the Palestine frontier as a measure of precaution with a view to immediate intervention in case of grave threats to the Arab population. I told the military attache to go to see the Minister of War and ask whether there was any truth in this report. The Minister of War merely replied that the movements of Syrian troops inside Syria were their own affair.

3. As you will have seen from my telegrams No.203 and 204 I twice intimated to the President yesterday my hope that nothing would be done to EXACERBATE the situation. If anything more is to be said I feel it must be on direct instructions from yourself. You will doubtless have realised from my reports(1), yesterday's conversations that our argument of being responsible for the maintenance of law and order until May 15th has ceased to carry ANY conviction at all and is indeed being turned against us.

LONDON ONLY. Please pass Most Immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram 76 and to UKDEL as my telegram 20.

CAIRO ONLY. Please pass to B.M.E.O. as my telegram 8.

(JFS/HLM/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :— *To :—*

Despatched Received

No. of

3. Azzam desired(1) His Majesty's Government to know that if these massacres continued and the British Forces were unable to give protection the Arab states would be forced by their public to intervene militarily. In that case they could hardly be accused of an act of aggression.

4. Mr.Troutbeck was present(1) at the interview(1)

Foreign Office please pass(1) UKDEL New York and Washington as my telegrams Nos.5 and 14 respectively.

Foreign Office please pass Most Immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram 51.

(JS/PW/HA).

W49909. D1664. 35m in 3 sorts. 4/47.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

165

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— Memin.

To :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 24/4/48 (11.07) Received 24/4/48 (11.08)

No. 28 of 23rd April, 1948.

MOST IMMEDIATE.
RESTRICTED.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.133 of April 23rd.
Repeated to Jerusalem, UKDEL New York, Washington, Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, Amman and Jedda.

The situation in Haifa.

Your telegram No.324.

I have now succeeded in getting in touch with the Commanders in Chief and informed them(1) of your message. I learn that they telegraphed a general appreciation to the Chief of Staff today under No.229/CCL. This was supplemented by a subsequent telephonic conversation about Haifa between the Chief of Staff General Headquarters and DCIGS War Office(1). Their latest information is therefore already available in London but I have suggested that they may now wish to send a further telegraphic report.

2.(1) Meanwhile I am endeavouring to get in touch with AZZAM to pass on the information contained in Jerusalem's telegram No.1094 and tell him that His Majesty's Government have the matter under urgent consideration.

Foreign Office please pass UKDEL New York, Washington and Jerusalem as my telegrams 24, 28 and 33 respectively.

(JFS/HIM/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

166

CIPHER

BRITISH LEGATION
14 APR 1948
AMMAN

3/1074/48

To Stuart
Sec. 1st Sec.
2nd Sec.

FOREIGN OFFICE, LONDON

10th April, 1948

389

11.45 11/4/48

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No 389 of April 10th

Repeated for information to B.M.E.O. No 148
and Saving to Amman No 17
Beirut No 18
Cairo No 22
Damascus No 19
Jedda No 24
Jerusalem No 11

95

Cairo telegram No 440 to you. Palestine.

Iraqi Minister of Justice, who will accompany Minister for Foreign Affairs to Arab League meeting in Cairo on 10th April, told a member of my staff yesterday that Arabs are intending to place before UNO General Assembly a plan based on the Arab plan put forward at the London Conference in the autumn of 1946. The Minister was not explicit but was apparently referring to Constitutional Proposals put forward by Arab Delegations and circulated as paper No P.C.(A) (Committee) 2 of 27th September 1946, Eastern Department No (E9679/8035/31).

2. This appears to confirm press report in Cairo telegram under reference.

MACK

JCBR/HBM
PLP/JH
MH/VKM

167

Cyph

From: H.M.AMBASSADOR, BAGDAD.

To: FOREIGN OFFICE, LONDON.

7th April, 1948

No. 369

0930 8/4/48

To Se.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.369 of 7th April, 1948
Repeated for information to British Middle East Office, tel.No.140 Jerusalem, 16.

Cairo, 19, SAVING
Damascus, 16 "
Beirut, 15, "
Amman, 14, "
Jedda, 21, "
U.K.Delegation New York 2, SAVING
Washington, 3,"

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 3/104/48

Your telegram No.431 of 31st March to Cairo.

Arab bands in Palestine.

I handed communication to Minister for Foreign Affairs on the lines of paragraph 3, in continuation of the representations on this subject which had previously been made by this Embassy. I also spoke to him on the lines of your paragraph 4. He is non-committal by nature and has been less than a week in office. He promised to study the matter.

MACK

HM
JH/FLP
AD/VKM

24/4/48.
13.40
168

MESSAGE FORM

W/T Office Serial No. 516

Cipher Office Serial No.

Date 24/4

To:	TIME OF ORIGIN	TIME OF RECEIPT
PRO	1200	1136
From:	**Originators No.**	**Number of Groups**
PRO Cairo		158

BRITISH LEGATION AMMAN 5/1074/48

Special Instructions	Indication of Priority

1	03823	Telegraphed	FO	no 499	4
2	of 23rd	April repeated	FOR	information	8
3	to Jerusalem,	Baghdad,	Beirut,	Damascus,	12
4	Amman,	Jeddah,	.	Journal d'Egypte	16
5	reports	following	statement	by	20
6	Fawzi	to journalists	after	meeting	24
7	of Arab	League	political	committee	28
8	22nd	April.	Begins.		32
9			The	situation	36
10	is bad	in Palestine.	The	ZIONISTS	40
11			have	began under	44
12	the	shadow of	the	British	48
13	the	final battle	of	intervention	52
14	of the	Arabs in	the	zone where	56
15	they	propose to	establish	a Jewish	60
16	state.	They	have	committed	64
17	HAIFA	acts as	reprehensible		68
18	as at	TIBERIAS	DEIR	YASS IN	72
19	attacking	women,	children	and	76
20	old	people.	Safar	the British forces	80
21	have	disclaimed	the	in inability	84
22	to	protect	defenceless	persons but	88
23	they	shall	consider	any intervention	92
24	of	Arab forces	as	an attack	96
25	against	PALESTINE.	Faced	with	100

Time of Enciphering or Deciphering	Cipher Clerks Initials

MESSAGE FORM

W/T Office Serial No. .....

Cipher Office Serial No. .....

Date .....

To:	TIME OF ORIGIN	TIME OF RECEIPT
From:	Originators No.	Number of Groups

Special Instructions	Indication of Priority

1	This	state of	affairs the		4
2	arab	countries	cannot	remain	8
3	indefinitely	with	arms	folded.	12
4	In any	case the	conduct of		16
5	the ZIONISTS	cannot in	any		20
6	way	modify	the arab	plans.	24
7	Ends	FO	see	pass	28
8	as my	tel 53.	Campbell		32
9					36
10					40
11					44
12					48
13					52
14					56
15					60
16					64
17					68
18					72
19					76
20					80
21					84
22					88
23					92
24					96
25					100

Time of Enciphering or Deciphering	Cipher Clerks Initials

(S)9206m/GHQP/200,000/11-46

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS. *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 23/4/48 (18.50) Received 23/4/48 (19.00)

No. 41 of 22nd April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office 204 and to Jerusalem.
Repeated to Baghdad, Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Jedda, Memin, UKDEL New York

SECRET.
My immediately preceding telegram.
LIGHT.

The President of the Republic sent(1) for me again at two thirty p.m. to show me the further telegram from Haifa. This was to the effect that an Arab delegation had seen the British Commander of(1) the troops and had asked for his intervention in order to stop the violent attack of the Jews against the Arabs. The commander had refused to intervene, to allow Arab help to enter the town or to take(1) measures to stop the killing of Arab women and children unless(1) the Arabs agreed to conclude a truce with the HAGANA on conditions explained by the commander, the chief(1) of which was the delivery of all arms to the Jews. Immediate instructions were asked for(1) in view of the meeting between the Arab delegation, the British commander and Jewish representatives at four p.m.

2. The President said he was bewildered at that condition of the truce which demanded delivery of arms to the Jews by the Arabs. Nor could he see what instructions he could send. What did I suggest ? I (said - mut.gp.) it was possible there was some misunderstanding but I reminded him that neither he nor I were aware of the real circumstances prevailing. I begged him to urge moderation and to take no action which would bring this local Haifa issue on to a wider plane. The President again said he was very nervous of the reaction(1) of public opinion here especially as the contents of the telegram which he had read to me would become public property as it had come enclair.

4. I very much hope I shall receive something at the earliest possible moment which will enable me to answer these appeals from the President and to calm his mind.
(JFS/PW/HA).

P.T.O.

W30057. D1350. 55M. (Reprts). 10/45.

Foreign Office please pass Most Immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram 74 and to UKDEL as my telegram 18.

Cairo please pass to B.M.E.O. as my telegram 81.

(W/T)

.FILE NO.S/1014/48. **TELEGRAM.**

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS. *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 23/4/48 (18.15) Received 23/4/48 (19.00)

No. 42 of 22nd April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office 205 and to Jerusalem.
Repeated to Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Jedda, Memin, UKDEL New Yor

SECRET. LIGHT.

My immediately following telegram.

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs who was accompanied by the Acting Prime Minister sent for me this evening and read a joint telegram from the Syrian and Egyptian Consuls at Haifa asking whether in view of the imminent handing over of the town to the Jewish armed forces they should not return home after the evacuation of their respective communities. The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs also said that he had just received a telegram from the Syrian Consul at Jerusalem to the effect that the latter's request to the Government for assurance that the Syrians living in Haifa could be escorted safely to the Consulate had been rejected. The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs said we had several times told the Syrian Government(1) that until May 15th we were responsible for the maintenance of law and order in Palestine and could give an assurance that the Consulate and the lives of Syrians in Haifa would be safeguarded and their evacuation ensured. I said that I could clearly give no such assurance but that I would refer his enquiry both to His Majesty's Government and to Jerusalem.

Foreign Office please pass Most Immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram No.75 and UKDEL as my telegram 19.

Cairo please pass to B.M.E.O. as my telegram 82.

(HIM/JFS/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 parts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To Sec

171

From :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON. *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 23/4/48 (18.25) Received 23/4/48 (19.00)

No. 235 of 23rd April, 1948.

SECRET.

Addressed to Damascus telegram No.192 April 23rd

Repeated for information Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Jedda, B.M.E.O. and UKDEL New York.

Your telegram No.205. — 170

Please inform the Syrian Government(1) that I appreciate their concern. We are studying the situation most(1) urgently and on receipt of further information hope to send further instructions(1). Meanwhile you should continue to urge moderation on the Syrian authorities although I realise that this will in the circumstances be a(1) most difficult task.

(PW/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

172

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To See

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS. *To* :—H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 24/4/48 (13.20) Received 24/4/48 (13.26)

No. 44 of 23rd April, 1948.

IMPORTANT.
Addressed Foreign Office 210.

Repeated to Jerusalem, Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Jedda, Memin and UKDEL New York.

171

Your telegram No.192.

SECRET. LIGHT.

Haifa.

I have seen the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and spoke in accordance with the(1) first two sentences.

2. I added that you had instructed me to urge once again(1) calmness on the Syrian Government. The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs assured me that they were acting in that spirit. I then (? gp. omitted ? drew) his attention to this morning's press report about troop concentration on the Palestine frontier (my telegram No.207) as well as to the alleged movement of guns and(1) cars (Jerusalem telegram No.1113 to me). To this the Minister replied that (there were - Sic ? they were) not(1) sending any(1) regular troops into Palestine and that this situation would continue unless the Arab League decided otherwise.

3. The Minister immediately told the President of the Republic of our conversation but the latter had nothing further to ask me so I did not see him.

Foreign Office please pass immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram 77 and to UKDEL as my telegram 21.

Cairo please pass to B.M.E.O. as my telegram 84.

(JS/HLM/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. 43 sorts. 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS. *To* :—H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 24/4/48 (18.45) Received 24/4/48 (21.30)

No. 47 of 24th April, 1948.

IMPORTANT.

Addressed to Foreign Office 213 and to Jerusalem.

Repeated to Amman(1) Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Jedda, Memin, UKDEL New York.

SECRET. LIGHT.

HAIFA.

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs(1) has just(1) read to me over the telephone (10.45 a.m.) a telegram from Haifa to the effect that it is to be feared that the Jews will steal Syrian goods in the(1) SUQS. The message also said that the Jews(1) are ABDUCTING Syrians to unknown destinations and forbiding their getting into contact with the Syrian Consulate. Intervention by the British authorities is requested.

2. I reminded the Minister for Foreign Affairs of our conversation yesterday (my telegram No.210). He said the Syrian(1) Government would hold us responsible for Syrian losses of any kind.

Foreign Office please pass most immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram 80 and to UKDEL as my telegram 24.

Cairo please pass to MEMIN as my telegram 87.

(JFS/HIM/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

174

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To Sec

From :— H.M.Ambassador, BAGHDAD. *To* :—H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 24/4/48 (19.03) Received 24/4/48 (21.00)

No. 54 of 24th April, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.
SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.444 April 24th(1).

Repeated for information B.M.E.O., Amman, and Saving Beirut and Damascus.

154 163

My telegrams Nos.(1) 433 and 435.

The meeting between the Regent and King Abdullah.

The Regent confirmed(1) to me last night that the object of the meeting was to discuss Palestine(1). He also confirmed that there were no units of the Iraqi army in Palestine and that none would be sent in before May 15th. He was being pressed hard to contribute some Iraqi forces if not to Palestine at least to Transjordan and he clearly implied that it would be difficult to resist this pressure. I doubt indeed whether the Iraqi Government would wish to resist it. The contribution would be limited by transport and finance and would certainly not amount to as much as a division.

2.(1) In addition to the Ministers of Defence and Finance the Chief of the General Staff will also accompany the Regent to Amman and will(1) visit Syria and the Lebanon with the Minister of Defence after the Regent has returned to Baghdad. The Regent does not expect to stay at Amman for more than 3 or 4 days.

3. In reply to a question from me the Regent said that no other countries had been invited to send representatives to the meeting and that he himself(1) had felt that he could not properly suggest that they should be invited.

(HIM/JFS/HA).

W30857. D1350. 55M. (3 spt(s)). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO. S/1014/48. **TELEGRAM.**

175

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON. *To* :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 24/4/48 (12.00) Received 24/4/48 (12.01)

No. 238 of 23rd April, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.
CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed Damascus telegram No.197 of April 23rd. Beirut, Cairo, Jedda, Baghdad, B.M.E.O.
Repeated for information UKDEL New York, Washington, Jerusalem (? Amman omitted)

Jerusalem telegram No.1094.

You should inform the Government to which you are accredited accordingly and point out that previous reports have clearly been exaggerated. In particular the Press stories of the evacuation of 23,000 Arabs are a considerable exaggeration. The Arabs have been leaving Haifa for some weeks and this process has lately been intensified. You should emphasize that British troops have engaged the Jewish MORTARS and done their best to control the crowds and to bring about a truce.

2. Foreign nationals are (? LEFT gp.undec.) to ~~the~~ (? ASSUME gp.undec.) that the situation is a dangerous one but the military authorities do not expect that either side will make a concerted attack against them except in the case of foreigners who have been engaged in the fighting.

3. I fully realise the great difficulty in which these and other similar incidents place you in your relations with the Arab Governments in the light of our responsibility in Palestine until May 15th but I am bound to ask you to do your best to persuade the Arab states not to make the situation still more difficult by(1) taking any precipitate or(1) direct action.

(HLM/JFS/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS. *To* :—H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 24/4/48 (18.11) Received 24/4/48 (18.15)

No. 46 of 24th April, 1948.

IMPORTANT.

Addressed to Foreign Office No.212.
Repeated to Amman, Baghdad(1) Beirut, Cairo,Jedda,Jerusalem,Memin and UKDEL New York.
SECRET. LIGHT.

HAIFA.

I have read to and left with the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs a copy of Jerusalem en clair telegram to Secretary of State for the Colonies 1094 and asked him to show it to the President. I explained that it was the actual answer to(1) AZZAM's(1) approach to(1) H.M.Ambassador Cairo although the latter generally agrees with (1) what(1) the Syrian President had told me. The Minister tried to argue that the Arabs had no real responsibility for the present situation in Haifa and maintained that the Jewish action there and elsewhere was part of the regulated plan to influence the United Nations Assembly. When I took the further opportunity (gp.undec.) in that the British army was being impartial and had had casualties he retorted that we may be impartial but that we are powerless.

Foreign Office please pass immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram 79 and to UKDEL as my telegram 23.

Cairo please pass to Memin as my telegram 86.

(HLM/JS/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To Sec

From :—H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS. *To* :H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 24/4/48 (21.46) Received 24/4/48 (22.50)

No. 50 of 24th April, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

Addressed Foreign Office 218.

Repeated to Jerusalem, Amman, Beirut, UKDEL New York and Memin.

CONFIDENTIAL. LIGHT. (1)

My telegram No.213.

HAIFA.

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that(1) he has just received a (1) telegram from Haifa timed 04.45 p.m. stating that British troops are supervising the evacuation of Syrians from Haifa.

(HIM/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

178

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, BEIRUT.

To :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 23/4/48 (11.30) Received 23/4/48 (11.45)

No. 36 of 22nd April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.295 of April 22nd.
Repeated for information Damascus, Jerusalem, Amman, Baghdad, Cairo, Jedda, B.M.E.O. and UKDEL New York.

PALESTINE.

The Director-General for Foreign Affairs sent for me urgently to ask me in the name of the President of the Republic who was seriously(1) perturbed(1) by the news of a full(1) scale Jewish attack on Haifa and district now in progress to draw the attention of His Majesty's Government to their obligations under the mandate to ensure public security and to express the earnest hope of the Lebanese(1) Government that steps would be taken immediately to deal with this Jewish aggression. The effect on Arab opinion if the British troops now(1) stood aside would of course be deplorable.

2. I said that though(1) I had not heard of this attack I felt confident that the British security forces would not tolerate any breach of the peace by either the Jews or the Arabs in the areas still under their control. And as he well knew Haifa would remain in British hands until our evacuation had been completed. I would(1) nevertheless not fail to pass to y ou the President's message without delay.

3. He said that the President of Syria would be holding similar (gp.undec.) with His Majesty's Minister at Damascus.

Foreign Office please pass to UKDEL as my telegram 12.

Cairo please pass to MEMIN as my telegram 85.

(JFS/HLM/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sor(s)). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

(179)

Cypher M/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— S.OF S. F.O. LONDON. *To* :— H.M.Minister AMMAN.

Despatched 23/4/48 (18.30) Received 23/4/48 (19.00)

No. 236 of 23rd April, 1948.

SECRET.

Addressed to(1) B.M.E.O. telegram No.324 (April 23rd)(2)

Repeated for information to(1) Cairo, Jerusalem, UKDEL New York, Washington, Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, Amman and Jedda.

Cairo telegram No.494. (161)

Following from the Secretary of State.

Personal.

Please obtain most urgently from Commander in Chief the latest appreciation of the situation at Haifa and telegraph it to me if possible early this afternoon.

2. Meanwhile you can if you think it desirable inform AZZAM(1) PASHA and other Arab representatives in Cairo that His Majesty's Government are studying this situation with the utmost urgency and concern.

(JFS/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

180A

The War Office, S.W.1.

TOP SECRET - Copy No. 115

0176/816(MO4)

6th April, 1948.

Subject:- Directive and Administrative Instruction to the General Officer Commanding, British Troops in Palestine.

From:- The Director of Military Operations,
The War Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

To:- The Secretary,
Commanders-in-Chief Committee,
Middle East.

The Defence Committee, at their 7th (48) Meeting held on 31st March, 1948, approved the Directive and Administrative Instruction and invited the Secretary of State for War to issue it to the General Officer Commanding, British Troops in Palestine, through the Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East, on behalf of His Majesty's Government.

Five copies of the Directive and Administrative Instruction, Nos. 1 to 5, are accordingly forwarded herewith with a request that a copy be issued to the General Officer Commanding, British Troops in Palestine.

A copy of the Directive and Administrative Instruction and of this covering memo have been sent to the Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Lord President of the Council, Minister of Labour and National Service, The Treasury, The Foreign Office, The Colonial Office, The Admiralty and The Air Ministry.

(SGD) A.D. WARD.

Director of Military Operations.

/War Office Internal Distribution ..

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DPA
DMP
VQMG
D of AP
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Q(Ops)1,5
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DD Mov
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PR(Co-ord)
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180B

TOP SECRET

Copy No. 115

0176/816.

DIRECTIVE BY HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT FOR GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING BRITISH TROOPS IN PALESTINE

Period Covered by Directive.

This Directive will come into force on the relinquishment by His Majesty's Government of the British Mandate for Palestine, and will operate until the evacuation of British forces from Palestine is completed.

Object.

2. In accordance with directives issued by the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Land Forces, you will be responsible:-

(a) for the orderly evacuation of our forces.

(b) for the evacuation. Stores will be evacuated up to the latest possible moment and to the greatest extent that circumstances permit. You will ensure that no weapons or ammunition are abandoned in Palestine in serviceable or repairable condition.

Powers.

3. During the period covered by this Directive the basis of the powers which you may exercise will be that you are the Commander of a military force in occupation of foreign territory.

You have overriding military jurisdiction in certain areas, specified by yourself, from time to time, which will override all other law and authority in these areas. In these areas you have the power to exercise complete control in all matters including law and order, requisitioning, control of transportation, and so on, but should exercise it only insofar as it is essential for the protection of our forces and for the orderly progress of the evacuation.

So long as the conditions allow you will ensure the orderly evacuation of Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel and stores by means of close co-operation with Commodore, Palestine, and the Air Officer Commanding, Levant. Should it be necessary to use Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel to assist in maintaining law and order, you will authorise these officers to act on your behalf. If you consider a state of emergency has arisen, you have the power, after informing the other two Service Commanders, to assume command of all Service personnel in Palestine.

4. You may extend or decrease at your discretion the areas in which you wish to exercise your overriding military jurisdiction.

5. You will exercise your overriding jurisdiction, and specify the areas in which you wish to exercise it, by the issue of proclamations.

Proclamations

6. You should immediately on the relinquishment of the Mandate issue proclamations stating your overriding military jurisdiction and the areas in which it is to run, including territorial waters where relevant; warning the civil population to abstain from actions calculated to interfere with the progress of the evacuation, and stating that such actions will be punishable by the military authorities; specifying the offences which will be triable by the military authorities; and setting up courts in which these offences will be tried.

Responsibilities other than the conduct of the Evacuation.

7. You have no responsibility for the preservation of law and order in any part of Palestine except as required by you for the protection of our forces and for the purpose of evacuation. You should, however, take whatever steps may be possible, and in keeping with your main responsibilities under this Directive, to protect the lives of British subjects in the areas in which your troops are located.

8. It is no part of your duty to undertake any administration for any part of Palestine except insofar as this is essential in order satisfactorily to achieve your object. You will, however, conduct the evacuation with due regard to the welfare of the civilian population and the economy of the country.

9. All expenditure on civil administration of the areas under your control should be met by whatever civil authorities are functioning in the areas.

10. You will allow such civil authority as may be effective in any areas, and which apart from your military occupation would be the civil authority of that area to operate to the greatest extent possible, and you should interfere only when necessary to achieve your object.

Relations with other authorities.

11. Assuming that the United Nations' Commission is established in Palestine at the time of the relinquishment of the Mandate you should deal with the Commission as the authority administering Palestine. If a United Nations' Commission is not established, further instructions will be sent to you in regard to the Jewish and Arab authorities with whom you should deal.

12. You will be assisted in such dealings by a political adviser to be seconded by the Foreign Office.

13. In each of the contingencies mentioned in paragraph 11 above you are also authorised to deal direct with local authorities and municipal bodies insofar as may be expedient.

Immigration

14. You have no responsibility for the control of immigration into Palestine as a whole. You have, however, authority to control the movement of immigrants into or through the areas in which you are exercising your overriding military authority at any time, insofar as you consider it expedient, for the protection of our forces and for the orderly progress of the evacuation.

(Signed) E. SHINWELL.
Secretary of State for War.

The War Office,
1st April, 1948

176/816 Copy No. 115 TOP SECRET

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION FROM HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING BRITISH TROOPS IN PALESTINE

Finance

1. All expenditure on the civil administration of the areas under your control should be met by whatever civil authorities are functioning in the area. Only if these authorities refuse to meet expenditure on services of this nature which you consider to be essential for the purpose of the military evacuation should any expenditure be incurred by you. In the event of such expenditure being unavoidable separate records should be kept, as far as possible, of the amounts spent in order that subsequent recovery may, if necessary, be effected from the appropriate authorities. Similarly, records should be kept of Service Stores and supplies used for such purposes.

2. In the case of stores, whose evacuation or disposal by the Ministry of Supply cannot be effected, you will endeavour to negotiate, if possible, with the United Nations' Commission in Palestine or with successor Governments, for their safe custody with a view to the subsequent withdrawal of such stores, or to disposal as may be decided upon in the altered circumstances. In this you will be assisted by the officer appointed by the Minister of Defence. The cost of safeguarding of stores must be economically related to the value of the stores handed over for safe custody.

Fixed Assets

3. So long as the situation permits, the Fixed Assets Disposal Executive (Palestine) will continue to function in accordance with the Directive and with the powers contained in War Office letter 119/Abd/4331 (C. of L. & C.) dated 15th January, 1948.

Employment of Officers of the former Government of Palestine

4. You are authorised to employ temporarily officers of the former Government of Palestine under the arrangements to be notified to the extent that this may be essential to assist in the military evacuation. If such officers are required for purely military purposes, the expenditure involved is a proper charge against Army Votes. If, on the other hand, they are required by you to perform administrative functions which should ordinarily be performed by the civil authorities all expenditure in respect of this should ultimately be met by the responsible civil authorities, and should be dealt with in the manner described in paragraph 1 above.

(Signed) E. SHINWELL.

The War Office,
1st April, 1948.

Secretary of State for War.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

To see

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS. *To :—* H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 24/4/48 (19.16) Received 24/4/48 (22.21)

No. 48 of 24th April, 1948.

IMPORTANT.
Addressed to Foreign Office 214 and to Jerusalem.

Repeated to(1) Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Jedda, UKDEL New York, Memin and Washington.

SECRET.

Your telegram No.197 (1) LIGHT HAIFA.

Although as reported in my telegram 212 I had already conveyed to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs Jerusalem telegram No. 1094 I saw him(1) again and spoke in the sense of your telegram under reference. omitting however the 3rd paragraph which so far as I could understand its rather corrupt text seemed inappropriate in view of my telegram No.213.

2. The Minister took note of what I said and expressed the hope that we would carry on our responsibilities in Palestine.

3. See my immediately following telegram which deals with Sarafand Camp seems to imply that the Arab regular(1) forces expect to have reached that spot in about 10 days time.

Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem as my telegram 82 immediate and to UKDEL and Washington as my telegrams 25 and 11 respectively.

(PW/HA).

W30/57. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

(W/T)

FILE NO.S/1014/48.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher ID/OTP

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, DAMASCUS.

To :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 24/4/48 (19.26) Received 24/4/48 (22.00)

No. 49. of 24th April, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office 215.

Repeated to Memin, Baghdad, UKDEL New York, Jerusalem and Amman.

My immediately preceding telegram and your telegram 522 to Memin.

SECRET.

Very soon after I had seen the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs for the second time to-day he twice telephoned the oriental secretary in quick succession. The first subject is dealt with in my immediately following telegram and concerns Haifa.

2. On the second occasion he asked(1) that the decision to lend(1) Sarafand camp to the Jews should be postponed as in 10 days time the Transjordan Army would be able to prevent the Jews(1) taking it.

Foreign Office please pass important to Jerusalem and UKDEL as my telegrams 83 and 26 respectively.

Copy to:- S/1049/48.

(HLM/JFS/PW/HA).

W30057. D1350. 55M. (3 sorts). 10/45.

Folio 111 & 111A transferred to 8/1088/48